



ACTIVITY TIPS

Chart and Graph Your Energy Use

This activity appears in the section *Energy in Your Life*. It asks students to list activities they did in the past week that involved energy usage, the item they used for each activity, and the time they spent. Students will need to convert 15-minute increments into decimals; a key for this conversion is provided. They will also need to be able to add decimals to complete the chart.

Students' charts should look like the one below. Just three rows are shown in the example below, but students' charts should have 10 rows.

My Activity	Item Used	Time Spent
Reading	Desk lamp	.75
Making a grilled cheese sandwich	Toaster oven	.25
Texting friends	Cell phone	2.00
	Total Time	3.00 hours

Class Discussion

Ask each student to state which two activities they spent the most time doing. List all named activities on the board. Next to each activity, list the energy-using item that was involved.

As a class, brainstorm how students could have performed the listed activities before modern tools, devices, appliances, and equipment were available for people to use. (For example, reading could have taken place during daylight hours, or by candlelight. Making a grilled cheese sandwich could have taken place over a wood fire. Texting friends would not have been possible; people wrote letters, sent telegrams, and even used smoke signals to communicate.)

Ask students to estimate how much time it would have taken them to accomplish the listed activities without the conveniences of modern energy-using items.

Bonus

Students who wish to do the Bonus activity and create a bar chart of their results should create a graph with their activities listed along one axis. Along the other axis they should put tick marks at even intervals representing 15-minute increments of time: .25, .50, .75, 1.0, 1.25, 1.5, 1.75, 2.0, etc. Students should plot the time they spent on each activity and draw in bars to make a bar chart. A template for this chart appears on the second page of the activity.