

Let's Make Solar Ovens

An activity of "Rice-drying machine by youths improves rice yields"

Read "**Rice-drying machine by youths improves rice yields**" (page 14, *What's Up* July 2019). Solar is the Latin word for sun. So, solar energy is energy given off by the sun. It is a free and renewable source of energy. The most obvious examples of solar energy come in the form of light and heat.

Ask yourself these questions: What would you do with solar energy? Do you know of other forms of energy which are renewable and free?

For this project, you will need the following items:

- 1 cardboard box (a shoebox would be a great choice)
- black coloured paper (enough to wrap the entire box)
- glue sticks
- aluminium foil
- a bowl of tortilla chips (or your preferred type of chips)
- three tablespoons of shredded cheese

In small groups,

1. Glue the black paper onto the box. Make sure both the inside and outside of the box are covered.
2. Once the glue has dried, wrap the box with the aluminium foil. Again, ensure that both the inside and outside are covered. Make sure that there are no gaps. Your box oven is ready!
3. Label your box oven so that you don't get it mixed up with your classmates' box ovens.
4. Make a small bowl with your extra aluminium foil.
5. Put the tortilla chips into your bowl. Sprinkle shredded cheese on your chips.
6. Place the bowl inside the box oven.
7. Close your box oven and leave it where there is a lot of sunlight.
8. Check your box every 15 minutes. When the cheese has melted, take out the bowl. Be careful, the box might be hot.
9. Enjoy your cheese-covered chips!