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小小英語樂



Goodies



Wednesday
LS World

LET'S GET CLEAR ON NUCLEAR



TODAY is the fourth anniversary of a sad day. Four years ago, a powerful earthquake and tsunami hit Japan (日本). It damaged a nuclear power plant, so the plant leaked harmful radiation to the area nearby. To avoid getting hurt, people had to move out of their homes. The waters and land there became polluted. The workers had to risk their lives to fix the power plant too. The '311' disaster left people thinking one question: Is nuclear energy safe?

Editor's Note

Our need for energy is getting bigger as the world's population increases. But how can we create energy that is safe? Is nuclear energy the answer? Read about it on G02 to decide for yourself. Dirty water is a big problem in developing countries because there are few proper toilets and so people use rivers. Thanks to the billionaire Bill Gates, there may soon be a solution to make that dirty water drinkable. Read more on G03.



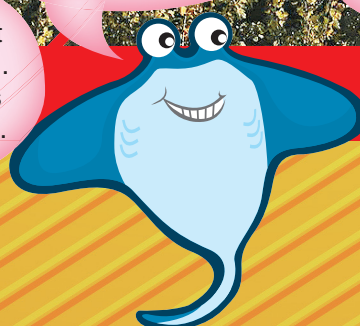
Simon

It sounds so dangerous. If there is an accident in a nuclear power plant, people and animals could be in great danger!

Rose, you are just worrying too much. Nuclear accidents are extremely rare.

Many people are working to monitor the plants and make sure that everything is safe.

No, Stevie and Big Dee. I do not agree with you at all!





What is nuclear energy?

Before we learn what nuclear energy is, we have to know about uranium first. Uranium is a powerful element. When it is hit by a really, really tiny **particle**... it splits! When it splits, it gives out lots of heat. Power plants use the heat uranium gives to run **electricity generators**, and produce electricity.



The power debate

Is nuclear energy good or bad? The Goodies Family have a big debate about it.

Good!



Nuclear energy is good because it hardly **pollutes** the air. Some other power plants generate electricity by burning **coal**. It pollutes the air and creates lots of **greenhouse gases**!

Bad!



But nuclear power plants produce **radioactive** waste. Strong radiation is very dangerous. It hurts our body severely. But we cannot see it, touch it or smell it.

Good!



If we have no nuclear power plants, will we have enough electricity? Of course we need nuclear energy! We need it to supply electricity for our lights, TVs, phones, iThings... I can't imagine a day without enough power!

Bad!



Last year, people in Taiwan (台灣) protested against the building of a new power plant. Germany (德國) has planned to close all nuclear power plants by 2022. See? People have recognised how bad nuclear power plants are!



Dear children, whose side are you on? Write a letter to me with your opinions on nuclear power!



Who uses it?

Many countries use nuclear energy, such as China, South Korea (南韓) and the United States (美國). There is a nuclear power plant near Hong Kong too! It is called Daya Bay Nuclear Plant (大亞灣核電廠). It is about 50 kilometres away from Tsim Sha Tsui (尖沙咀).



Vocabulary

particle (n) 粒子
electricity generator (n phr) 發電機

pollute (v) 污染
coal (n) 煤

greenhouse gas (n phr) 溫室氣體
radioactive (adj) 輻射性的



Challenge

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