Energy Heroes: Exploring Benefits of Energy Careers

National Energy Foundation

Objective:

Students will understand the benefits of careers in energy and how these careers contribute to convenience, community well-being and environmental sustainability.

Materials and Curriculum Correlations ▼

Introduction

Energy workers are real-life heroes who create and manage the power that lights up our homes and keeps us warm. They develop innovative solutions to provide the energy we need to work, learn, and play while considering sustainability. Their work not only makes life easier but also helps ensure a brighter future for everyone.

A career in energy offers many advantages. It's a field that's growing rapidly, provides opportunities to work with cutting-edge technology, and allows you to make a tangible difference in people's daily lives. Energy careers are also incredibly diverse–ranging from engineers who design renewable energy systems, to technicians who maintain power grids, to analysts who help plan sustainable energy solutions. Whether you're interested in science, technology, management, or hands-on work, there's a role for everyone in the energy industry.

Procedure

1. Discuss superheroes and what makes them special. Talk about heroes like Storm or Thor who both harness powers of elements or energy to save people or worlds from danger.
2. Introduce the idea that people in energy careers are real-life heroes who design and create devices that make our lives easier while protecting our communities and the environment.
3. Introduce students to electricity-based and natural gas related careers like electricians, line workers, plumbers (water heater), natural gas technicians.
4. Explain that students will create their own superheroes today with powers related to specific forms of energy.
5. Pass out the Student Sheet: Design Your Energy Superhero. Ask students to create a drawing or collage on their Student Sheet and draw a superhero character whose powers use energy (electricity or natural gas) to help the environment or community.
6. Encourage creativity. Superheroes can have powers like cleaning pollution using solar energy, providing instant hot water using natural gas or lighting up dark areas using safe or renewable energy. For struggling students, consider the following simple options:
    - Solar Santiago uses solar energy to help keep our environment green.
    - Electro Elena provides safe lighting for communities and powers electric cars.
    - Natural Gas Nate keeps homes warm and water hot.
    - Wind Wonder generates electricity with wind turbines for fewer negative effects on the environment.

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To Know and Do More

1. Have students write a reflection on their favorite part of the activity and one thing they learned about energy careers.
2. Ask, "How does your superhero's power help the community?" and "What is something cool about working in an energy career?"
3. Recap the lesson by emphasizing how energy careers are like being a superhero in real life. Encourage students to think about how they can be energy heroes in their communities.
4. (Optional) Homework: Students can write a short story about their superhero's adventures using their energy powers to solve a community problem.

Materials Needed:

- Student sheet
- Markers, crayons, colored pencils
- Optional: Old magazines or printed images, scissors and glue sticks (for collage elements)

Curriculum Correlations

3-ETS1-1
3-ETS1-2
4-ETS1-2
5-ETS1-1
5-ETS1-2
4-ESS3-1
4-ESS3-2
5-ESS3-1

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Student Sheet

Design Your Energy Superhero

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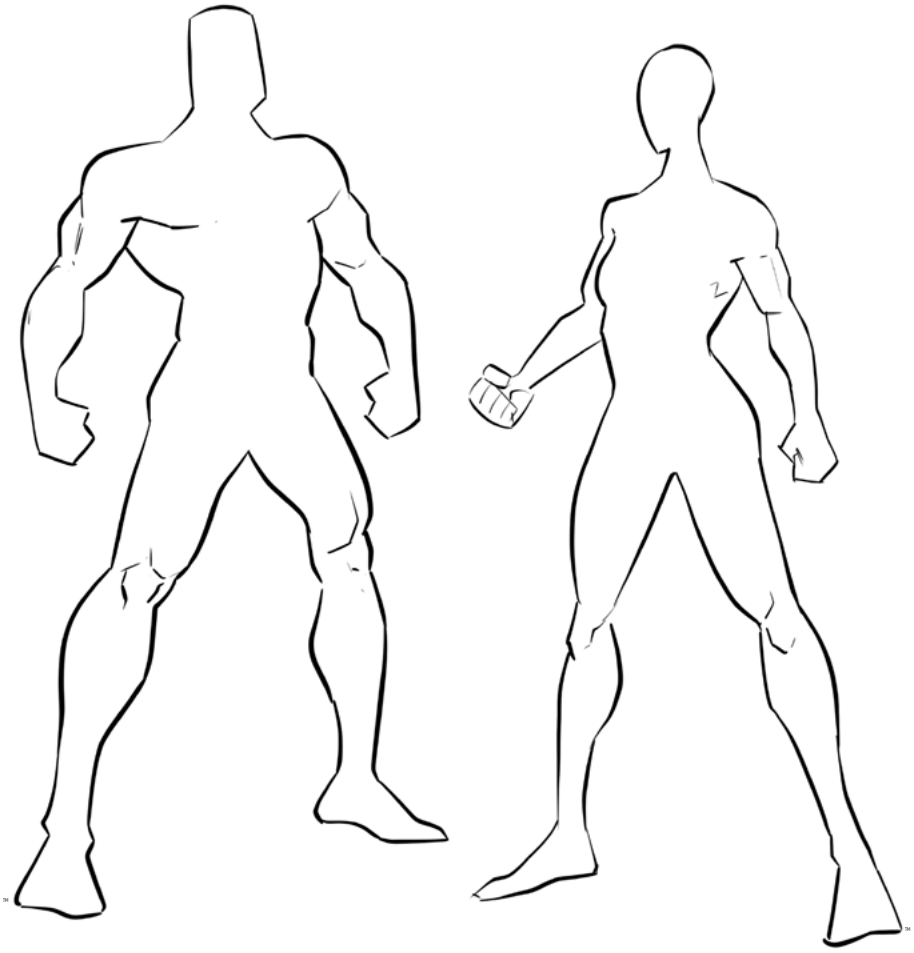
Draw and color a superhero who uses knowledge of energy (electricity or natural gas) to help the environment or community.

Explain how your hero uses energy to help people in their job.

Type of Energy

Energy Career Examples with (Real-Life Superheroes)



Hero Name

Hero Name

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