



Read each passage and decide: did the author write to Persuade, Inform, or Entertain? Answer the questions in complete sentences.

Harnessing the Sun's Power

Did you know that the sun, a giant star 93 million miles away, powers almost everything on Earth? It sends out incredible energy. For centuries, people have dreamed of harnessing this power. Today, we do just that with solar panels, turning sunlight into clean, usable electricity.



Solar panels work by using something called the "photovoltaic effect." This is a scientific principle where certain materials, like silicon, produce an electric current when exposed to light. When sunlight hits a solar panel, it excites electrons within the silicon cells. These electrons then flow, creating direct current (DC) electricity. An inverter changes this DC electricity into alternating current (AC), which powers our homes.

The photovoltaic effect was first observed in 1839 by French physicist Edmond Becquerel. However, it wasn't until the 1950s that the first practical silicon solar cell was created. Since then, solar technology has advanced dramatically. Modern solar panels can convert about 15-20% of sunlight into electricity, and scientists are constantly working to improve this efficiency.

Harnessing the sun's energy offers many benefits. It reduces our reliance on fossil fuels, which contribute to pollution. Solar power is a renewable resource, meaning the sun's energy will not run out. Scientists continue to research new ways to make solar power even more affordable and efficient, helping to create a cleaner future.



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

(1) What is the MAIN purpose of this passage?

- A To persuade people to install solar panels on their homes.
- B To entertain with a story about the history of electricity.
- C To inform readers about how solar panels convert sunlight into electricity.
- D To describe the sun's journey across the sky each day.

(2) The author wrote this passage mainly to _____ the reader.

— continue writing on the lines below

(3) Which detail from the passage BEST shows the author's purpose?

- A "Did you know that the sun, a giant star 93 million miles away, powers almost everything on Earth?"
- B "Solar panels work by using something called the 'photovoltaic effect.'"
- C "The photovoltaic effect was first observed in 1839 by French physicist Edmond Becquerel."
- D "It reduces our reliance on fossil fuels, which contribute to pollution."

(4) How do you know the author's purpose? Use TWO details from the passage to support your answer.



(5) What is the PRIMARY purpose of this passage? Is there a secondary purpose? Use details from the text to explain.

