



Sun Tea Activity

Kyla Wilkinson, Student Intern, Summer 2023

Goal: To learn about solar energy and the power of the sun's heat by making and enjoying a cup of sun tea.

Ages/Grades:

Younger children may need assistance preparing container. Any age can enjoy the drink.

Length:

3-5 hours.

Materials:

- Recommended books
 - *Sun Power A Book about Renewable Energy* by Esther Porter
 - *Running on Sunshine How Does Solar Energy Work* by Carolyn Cinami DeCristofano
- 8-12 Tea bags, any flavour
- Container for brewing (preferably glass)
- 1 gallon of water
- Tea cups

Activity:

1. Start by introducing the concept of solar energy and its benefits. This can be done by reading a book. Ask students about how they think they could reduce their energy consumption in their day-to-day life.
2. Introduce the activity and explain how tea can be steeped using the heat from the sun as opposed to relying on electrical power to heat a kettle.
3. Fill container with fresh cool water and add desired amount of tea bags (approximately 8-12 bags per gallon of water).

4. Secure lid on container and place outside in direct sunlight. Move container as necessary to keep it in the sun.
5. Allow container to sit for a few hours (3-5), or until tea has reached desired strength.
6. Bring inside. Pour into glasses and serve over ice, with sugar, lemon, or mint.
7. Enjoy!



Image of Sun Tea by Kyla Wilkinson, 2023.