

“Did you know?”

Topic: Energy Sources

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Did you know, the very first energy source was the sun providing heat and light during the day. Later fire was discovered by a lightning strike, producing another source of heat and light. We later began using windmills to turn water wheels for grinding grain. Throughout history, we have made lots of discoveries using energy.

Before 1850, wood was our main source of fuel for heating, cooking, and producing steam for powering steam engines for the railroads. Other sources of energy were water, wind, coal and some manufactured natural gas.

Around 1816 manufactured natural gas, made from coal, was first used for street lights in Baltimore, Maryland. From 1850 to 1945, coal was the main fuel source. Wood was still an important energy source for heating as well as natural gas for lighting, but water and wind were used less.

For most of the 1900's, oil and natural gas were our main fuel sources. Electricity was used more in the 1900's. From about 1945 to the present, nuclear and solar energy along with water and wind, have played a larger role in the production of energy. Other alternative energy sources being used today are geothermal and biomass.