

Oceans of Energy

By My-The Trinh

Did you know that about 70% of the Earth is covered by **water**? This water has been reused and recycled over the centuries. Does the water in the ocean contain energy? You bet!

Remember swimming at the beach with your family in the summer? You might have lost your balance when a really strong wave knocked you over. A wave is a form of **mechanical energy**. It is formed when the wind transfers some of its energy to the surface of the ocean.



Tides are another type of mechanical energy. They are created by the gravitational pull of the moon.

Oceans also have **thermal energy**. This is created over a long period of time as the sun warms up the surface of the ocean. Because the ocean is so very deep, the sun's rays do not penetrate all the way to the bottom. This difference in water temperatures creates thermal energy.

Did you know that in the 11th century the British harnessed the ocean's energy to grind their grain into flour? Today ocean energy is used to produce electricity. But, the downside to this type of energy is that it can cause hazards to sea life. So we must be careful before selecting the right place to build those ocean water power plants.