




## Family Holiday Consumption Activity

### Materials:

- 8 [Small Christmas Stockings](#)
- 8 [Magnetic Hooks](#) (or [Command Hooks](#))
- [Puck Button Lights \(8-pack\)](#) (+ batteries)
-  [Appliance Cards.pdf](#)
- Duct-Tape
- [Black Rocks](#) (minimum of 24)
- 1 Clear Jar/Container (roughly 32-40oz)
- [Fuzzy Holiday Socks](#) (optional prize for activity completion)
-  [Prize Attachment.pdf](#)
-  [EnergyConsumptionBrochures .pdf](#)

### Activity Prep:

1. Choose a high visibility dry erase board or wall in the classroom to place the hooks and hang up each of the 8 Christmas stockings in a single row.
2. Print out the appliance card and assign a different appliance card to each stocking. Tape the appliance card above the corresponding stocking.
3. Use the appliance cards to place the correct amount of black rocks (coal) in each stocking. (Ex: Oven = 5 Coals)
4. Place batteries in each puck button light and ensure that they are working. Use the remainder of the tape to hang a light over each of the stockings with appliance cards.
5. Place the clear jar/container in a high visibility space for students to see.
6. Print and cut out the prize attachments. Attach them to the fuzzy sock prizes.
7. Print out the “Energy Consumption Brochures” for each student.
8. When you are ready to begin the activity, turn on each light to represent the energy being used to run each of the appliances.

### Activity Instructions:

1. Use the “Energy Consumption Brochures” to discuss energy usage and consumption.
2. Gather the kids and introduce them to the concept of coal in stockings as a representation of energy usage for common household appliances..
  - Explain the importance of using less energy and the role of coal energy in our daily lives.
3. Explain to the kids that the goal of the activity is to reduce the amount of "coal" (representing energy) in the stockings by using less energy.
  - Explain that the lights above each appliance show that there is enough “coal”/energy to keep the appliance on.

4. Show the stockings filled with "coal" (representing energy usage). Guide the classroom to have discussions deciding which appliance stocking to take out pieces of coal from to perform actions that save energy. (Ex: turning off the Christmas lights).
  - Emphasize that taking out coal is a good thing, as it means they are using less energy.
  - Narrate their actions to reinforce the connection between energy usage and conservation. For example, "If you turn off the lights, you're taking out energy from the stocking, which means we're saving energy."
5. Encourage the kids to feel the weight of the stockings to gauge how much energy they contain.
  - They should not see how much is in the stocking but only how much is going into the jar.
  - This demonstrates that energy is finite, and they must limit their usage to fill the jar and perform necessary tasks.
  - If a stocking is completely emptied of coal, turn off the corresponding light/appliance to demonstrate that it cannot be used until more energy is saved.
6. Provide a jar where the kids can put the pieces of "coal" they remove from the stockings.
  - Explain that each piece of coal represents energy saved.
  - Once the jar is full, they can earn a prize as a reward (fuzzy socks) for their energy-saving efforts.
7. At the end of the game, provide a brief summary of the kids' actions and the amount of energy saved.
  - Reinforce the importance of energy conservation and how their efforts contribute to saving resources.
  - Encourage students to take home their "Energy Consumption Brochures" and share the information with their family!