**Fossil Fuel Facts**

**Fossil fuels** are essentially the remains of plants of animals. They provide us with a source of nonrenewable energy. Fossil fuels can either come in the form of an **oil**, **coal**, or **natural gas**. They are the result of the decomposition of dead plant and animal matter buried deep in the Earth's crust. These fossil fuels are then pumped from underground and used in a variety of ways.

**Interesting Fossil Fuel Facts:**

* It takes millions of years for fossil fuels to develop.
* The fossil fuels we use today began forming during the Carboniferous Period which was before dinosaurs ruled the Earth.
* Oil, also called petroleum, is pumped from underground and can be turned into products such as gasoline and electricity.
* If your house uses natural gas for cooking and heating, this is a form of a fossil fuel that lies underground usually above oil.
* Coal is another fossil fuel used to generate electricity and is found closer to the Earth's surface.
* Although fossil fuels are mainly used to make electricity, they are also used to power machines such as cars and planes.
* Fossil fuels are nonrenewable which means they cannot be made by humans.
* Fossil fuels in their natural form must first be burned in order to be used as electricity.
* When fossil fuels are burned, they release unhealthy toxins into the air we breathe.
* Around 90% of our energy comes from fossil fuels.
* The energy stored in fossil fuels comes from the sun.
* The main component of natural gas is methane which is highly flammable.
* Natural gas has no smell so a chemical called mercaptan is added so that it can easily be detected.
* Natural gas is pumped to houses by way of underground pipelines that connect directly to the natural gas source.
* Although renewable sources of energy are better than nonrenewable sources of energy, we continue to use nonrenewable sources because they are easier to obtain.