



Wisconsin K-12 Energy Education Program (KEEP)
College of Natural Resources
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Connect, Explore, Engage at Home! Solar Oven (Grades 4-6)

Introduction: The sun is Earth's biggest source of energy. It gives us light energy which plants can make into food and people can make into electricity. That light energy usually ends up as heat when it is absorbed or lost. You can use the sun's energy to heat up objects too! Here are the steps for making a solar oven:

Step 1: Find a box. Shoe boxes and pizza boxes work well. Cut a flap in the lid of the box.

Step 2: Line the flap opening with plastic wrap. Saran wrap or even a clear Ziploc bag cut open works well.

Step 3: Line the inside of the box (both top & bottom) with tinfoil. Put dark paper on the bottom.

Step 4: Put a marshmallow and/or chocolate candy on a cracker. Place the snack on foil and put it in the box.

Step 5: Prop the box top open. A stick, wooden spoon, or water bottle works well.

Step 6: Place your box facing the sun. You may need to occasionally move your box as the angle of the sun changes.



Let's talk about it! How did the temperature inside the solar oven compare to the air? Why were the two temperatures different? Check out this [VIDEO](#) for answers.

Get Creative: Decorate your solar oven with markers or stickers!

Get Active: Wear light colored clothing & do 30 jumping jacks in the shade. Then, put on dark clothing & do 30 jumping jacks in the sun. How do you feel?

More from KEEP: Video [Solar Oven](#), Full Lesson [Shoebbox Solar Cooker](#)