



The National
Theatre for Children

This booklet belongs to:

ONCE UPON A FLAME



Take this booklet home!

Share the activities inside with
your family to help them save
natural gas, too.

 **ENBRIDGE®**

ONCE UPON A FLAME

Tinkerfred has a problem. He wants to bake a cake for his niece, but none of the natural gas appliances are working. Luckily his friend, Little Blue Riding Hood, comes along and explains to him how we use natural gas. She suspects this is the doing of the Wicked Witch of the Upper Northwest.

The only way Tinkerfred can fix things is by learning all he can about natural gas.

Next, Tinkerfred meets Scratching Beauty, who teaches Tinkerfred how natural gas is formed through geologic processes from the remains of dead plants and animals. Tinkerfred thanks Scratching Beauty for all of her help and sets off.

Tinkerfred then runs into The Regular-Sized Good Wolf. He shows Tinkerfred some easy ways to conserve natural gas and also what to do if you smell the rotten egg smell of a natural gas leak. Tinkerfred sets off to confront the Wicked Witch.

The Wicked Witch arrives and, with the help of a student volunteer, Tinkerfred tells her everything he has learned.

Has the Wicked Witch learned to conserve natural gas? Will Tinkerfred bake the cake in time?



Wicked Witch of the Upper Northwest

WORDS TO KNOW

Conserve	To use wisely; the opposite of waste
Energy	The ability to do work and the force that makes things change
Geology	The science that deals with the Earth's physical structure
Natural Gas	A resource used in our homes for cooking and heating
Natural Resource	Something that is found in nature and useful to humans (coal, water and natural gas are examples)
Pipeline	A long tube, often underground, used to transport oil, natural gas or water over great distances
Mercaptan	The rotten egg smell that is added to natural gas so you can tell if there is a leak
Safety	Avoiding injury or danger
Waste	To use unwisely; the opposite of conserve

© The National Theatre for Children 2026



Tinkerfred



Scratching Beauty



The Regular Good-Sized Wolf

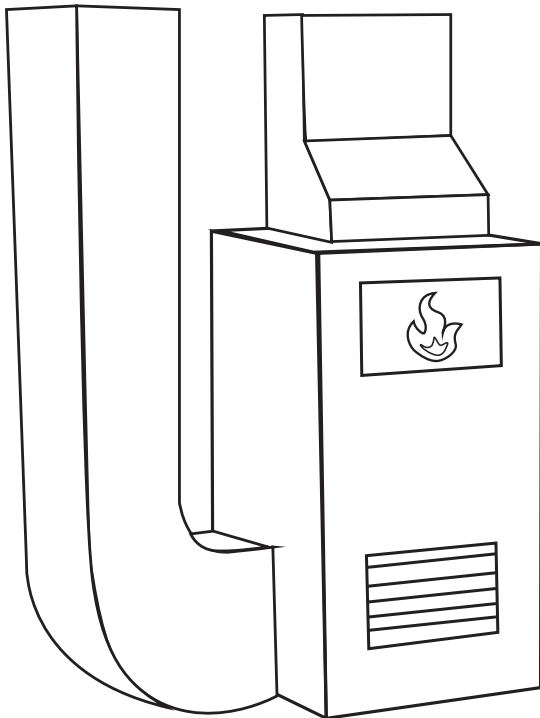


Little Blue Riding Hood

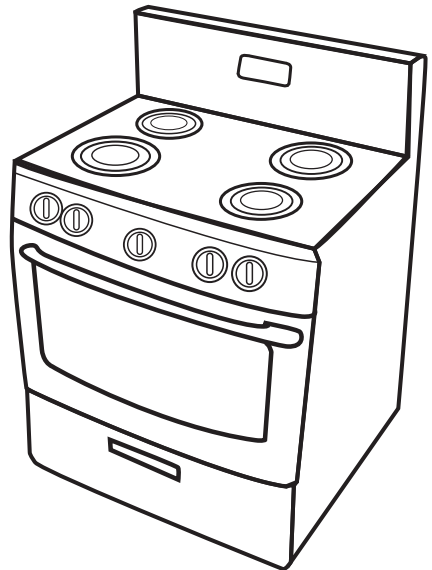
COLOR AND SHARE

We use natural gas in many ways. Color the pictures and hang your work where friends and family will see it.

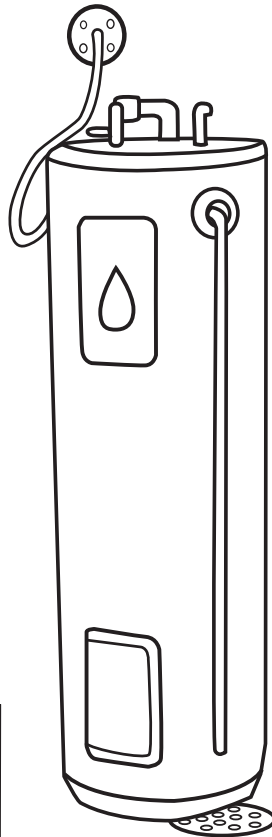
FURNACE



OVEN AND STOVETOP

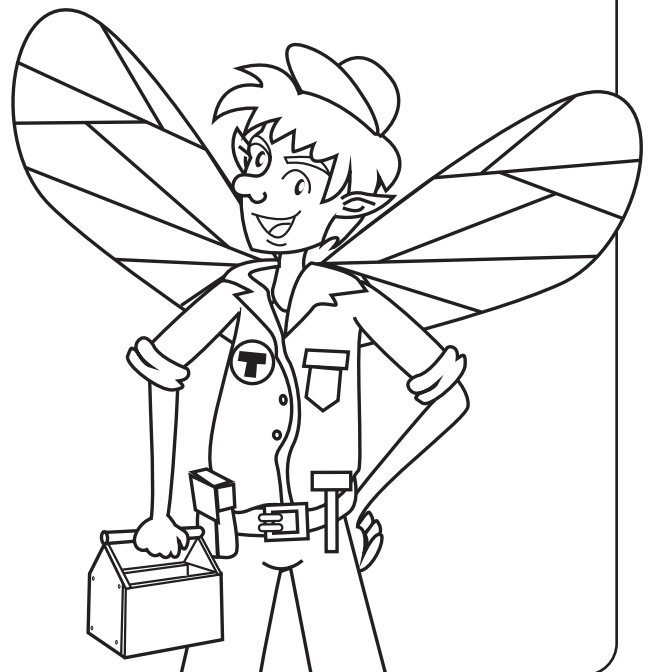


WATER HEATER



Dig Deeper!

Ask a grown up to help you find these appliances in your home. Do yours run on natural gas?



MATCHILY EVER AFTER

Find and circle the matching messages, then cross out the other messages. Rewrite the crossed-out messages to help everyone conserve and be safe around natural gas.

The worksheet contains nine circular panels, each with a cartoon character and a speech bubble. The characters are a fairy, a queen, and a wolf. The speech bubbles contain the following messages:

- Fairy (top left): There is an endless supply of natural gas.
- Queen (top middle): We use natural resources every day.
- Wolf (top right): Use natural gas wisely.
- Wolf (middle left): Use natural gas wisely.
- Fairy (middle): Natural gas smells like rotten eggs.
- Queen (middle right): Natural gas isn't important in our homes.
- Queen (bottom left): We use natural resources every day.
- Wolf (bottom middle): Don't tell anyone if you smell natural gas.
- Fairy (bottom right): Natural gas smells like rotten eggs.

**DRAW A
LINE TO**

DEFINE



Draw a line between the words on the left to the correct definitions on the right, using the pipelines.

Conserve

The ability to do work and the force that makes things change

Energy

Something that is found in nature and useful to humans (coal, water and natural gas are examples)

Geology

To use wisely; the opposite of waste

Natural Gas

The science that deals with the Earth's physical structure

Natural Resource

The rotten egg smell that is added to natural gas so you can tell there is a leak

Mercaptan

Avoiding injury or danger

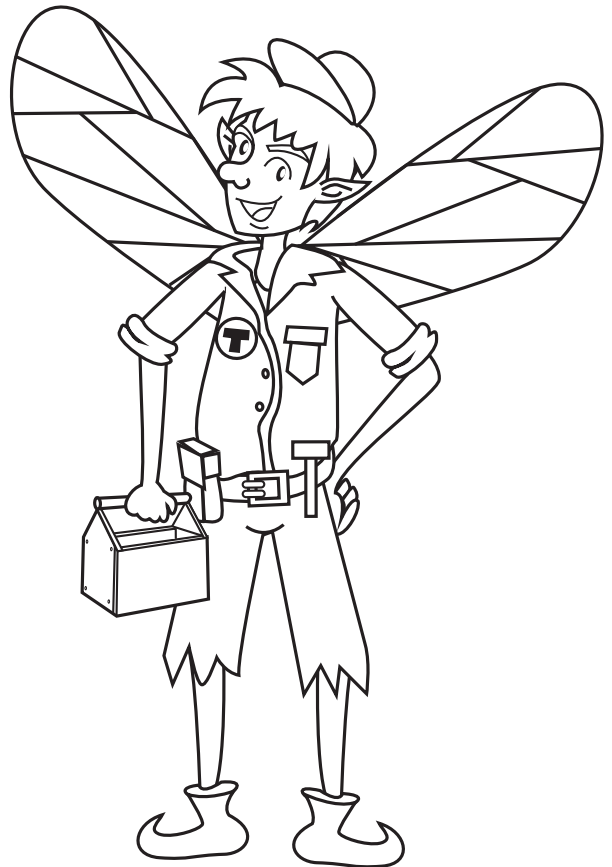
Safety

A resource used in our homes for cooking and heating

SPREAD THE WORD

Pretend you just started a newspaper called the *Natural Gas Gazette*. How would you write an article for the paper to let everyone know what you have learned about natural gas? If you want to complete the rest of the activities first, that's okay! When you're ready to write your article, make sure it includes **how natural gas is formed, how natural gas gets to your home** and **one way to conserve natural gas**. Every good article includes a picture; draw something to go along with your article when you're finished writing.

Teachers/caregivers, have your student read their article out loud to you when they're done. Then, tear out the page and hang up their article somewhere everyone can see it!



Dig Deeper!

Try using some of the vocabulary words on the inside cover of this booklet in your newspaper article. Then make sure you include them in the picture, too!

Natural Gas Gazette

(Write headline here!)

(Draw image here!)

MESSAGE MATH

Do the math and fill in the spaces below to discover a way to save energy.
Read the message out loud once you've completed it.

$97 - 5 = \square \quad E$

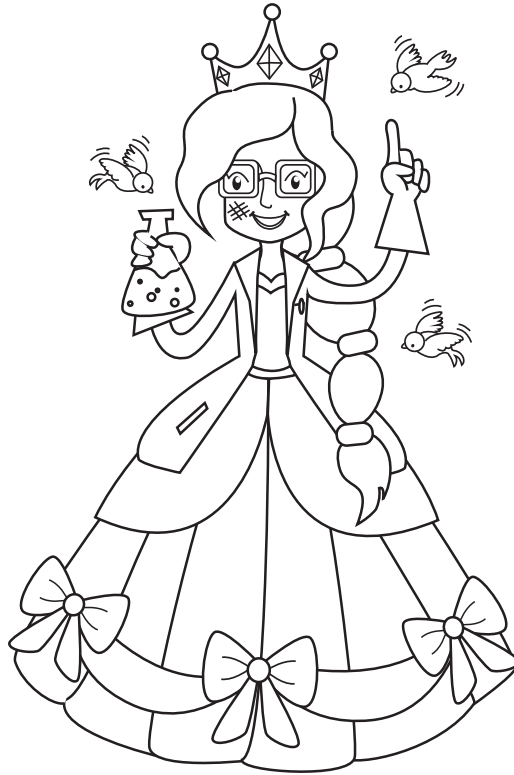
$40 + 5 = \square \quad A$

$3 \times 17 = \square \quad V$

$15 \div 5 = \square \quad H$

$10 \times 8 = \square \quad P$

$7 + 18 = \square \quad S$



$99 + 15 = \square \quad R$

$36 \div 6 = \square \quad U$

$13 + 7 = \square \quad O$

$12 - 12 = \square \quad N$

$33 \times 3 = \square \quad Y$

$65 - 9 = \square \quad T$

To save energy,

3 45 51 92 99 20 6 114

80 45 114 92 0 56 25

install a programmable thermostat.

SECRET CODE

Use the secret code at the bottom of the page to decode each of the natural gas conservation facts. When you are done, share these tips with your family.



Only do _____ loads of laundry.
   

Make sure your _____
   
 is the right temperature.



Saving _____
    
 can also save natural gas.

SECRET CODE

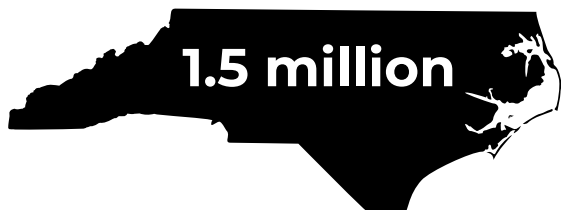
										
A	E	F	H	L	M	O	R	T	U	W

HERE

AND

THERE

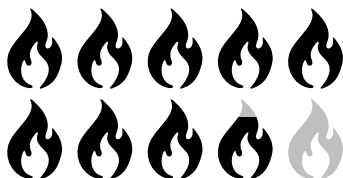
1.5 million people use natural gas in North Carolina.



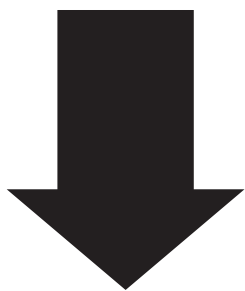
That's more than the entire population of Hawaii!



About 88% of the natural gas used in the USA is produced in the USA.



Most of the natural gas that is imported to the USA is from Canada.



Carbon emissions in North Carolina have declined by **25%** since 2007.

Globally, carbon emissions have declined 1% since 2007. North Carolina is leading the way by switching to natural gas!



IT'S YOUR TURN!

Do some research and find another fact about natural gas in North Carolina, the USA or your city.

Do some research and find another fact about natural gas in somewhere else in the world!

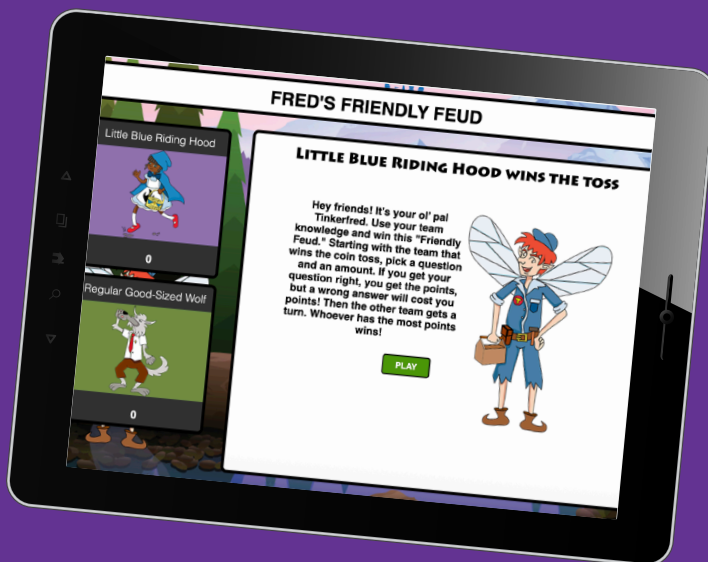
Hey parents, students and teachers!

GO TO:

NTC **playworks.com**



Check out more fun learning activities and resources on this topic at **NTCplayworks.com!**



Here's How:

1. Go to NTCplayworks.com
2. Select your state and program
3. Enjoy the digital games, interactive activities, e-books and more

