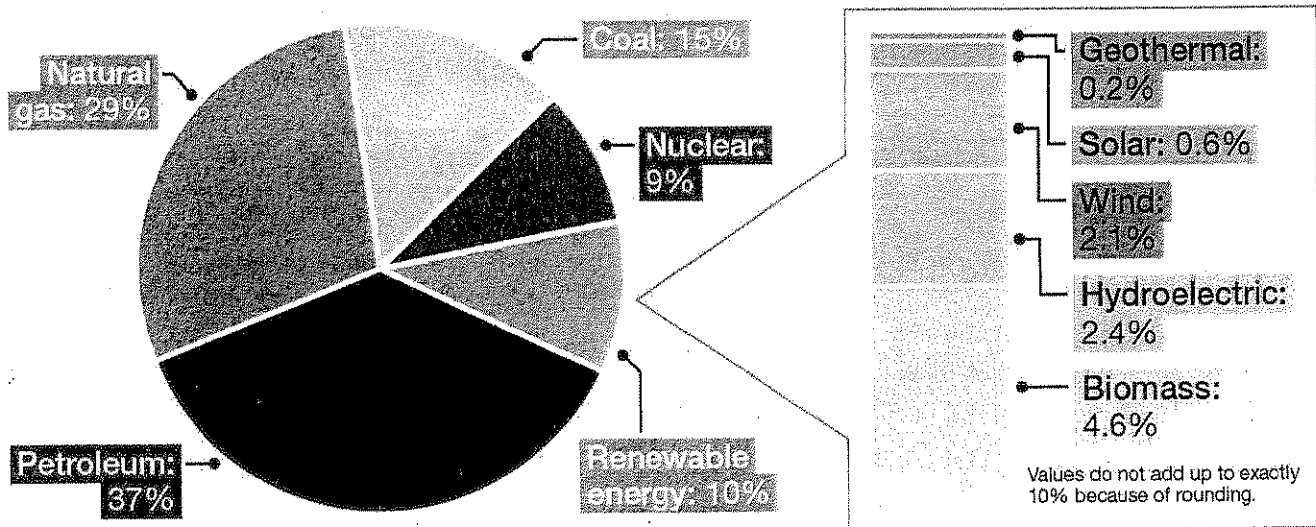


Name: _____

ENERGY BREAKDOWN

In "Upgrading an Icon" (p. 14), you learned how California plans to get 100 percent of its energy from more environmentally friendly sources by 2045. The graph below shows the different sources of energy that are used to produce electricity in the U.S. Use the data to answer the questions that follow.

Energy Use in the U.S. by Source



SOURCE: EPA, 2016

ANALYZE IT

1. What is the largest source of energy used in the U.S.?
2. What percentage of energy used in the U.S. is produced from fossil fuels?
3. How does the renewable energy use of the state of California compare with that of the entire U.S.? Support your answer with evidence from the article.
4. Describe at least two factors that you think may affect which sources of energy are used in different areas of the U.S.
5. Burning organic material such as unused parts of crops, yard waste, leftovers from processing food, and animal waste produces energy from biomass. How does biomass energy production compare with that from other renewable sources? Consider what you learned in the article. Why do you think biomass energy might be more common? What might be a downside of biomass compared with other renewable energy sources?

Name: _____

EVALUATING RENEWABLES

In "Upgrading an Icon" (p. 14), you learned that officials in California are working to increase the use of renewable energy sources in the state. Use this skills sheet to evaluate different types of renewable energy sources and answer the article's essential question: What are the benefits and drawbacks of using renewable energy sources to generate electricity?

STEP 1: RESEARCH IT

Use the article, the internet, textbooks, and your school library to research the pros and cons of renewable energy sources. Below are some helpful websites to continue your research. Use the table below to organize what you learn.

U.S. Department of Energy:

Hydropower: www.energy.gov/eere/water/benefits-hydropower

Wind Power: www.energy.gov/eere/wind/advantages-and-challenges-wind-energy

	PROS OF RENEWABLE ENERGY	CONS OF RENEWABLE ENERGY
1		
2		
3		

STEP 2: WRITE IT

Read over the information you have collected. Do you think the benefits of using renewable energy outweigh the disadvantages? On a separate piece of paper, write a 250- to 300-word essay that explains your point of view. Use the evidence you have gathered to support your opinion.

STEP 3: REVISE IT

After you have written your essay, read it critically. Does it clearly state your opinion? Have you included enough evidence to support your argument? Have you included a conclusion that reinforces your main points? Revise your essay if needed.