Humans and Energy

The students in Ms. Mariposa's class are learning all about how humans use the energy from the Sun. How many ways can you name?

Enrique has an idea. When he plays outside in warm weather, the Sun heats the land.

The Sun also heats the water. Rosie thinks about going swimming. In the summer, the Sun melts the frozen pond and makes it comfortable to swim in.

Maddie adds that the light from the Sun allows us to see things during the day. You don't need lights when you go outside during the day.

Peter remembers a flashlight with a solar cell he used for camping.

Ms. Mariposa explains about solar panels for electricity. During the day, the solar cell or solar panels collect the light from the Sun. At night, the stored energy is used for electricity.

But do you know one of the most important reason humans need the Sun?

Food!

The students are confused. You can't eat sunshine!

Ms. Mariposa explains that plants need heat and light from the Sun to grow. People eat plants and so do animals.

People also eat animals, so the energy from the plants moves to people and animals. That energy keeps moving all the way through the food chain.

Wow, there are certainly lots of ways humans need and use the Sun. Can you think of any others?