

How can you help your family save money on energy this winter? Here are some important ways to save money.

What can you do to help save money in the kitchen? Keep lids on pots when you cook.

How can we save dollars everywhere in our home? If your windowpanes are loose, there are leaks. The heat can leak out of your home. You won't see those leaks, but you can make sure you don't have them. Seal windows and doorframes so there is no chance of a leak. With every leak, your family loses money. Your family can save money by sealing along doorframes, too. If you have a window air conditioner, be sure to seal around it, too. Your family can buy tape or seals to weatherproof doors and windows and around pipes. That will help your family save money by keeping the heat inside in winter and outside in summer.

Windows can make your home colder. In winter, you may see ice on your window on the inside. That means you need another window layer. Storm windows and storm doors help a lot. They don't just put another layer between you and the cold. They make an air pocket that is like a cushion between your home and the outside air. If you don't have storm doors and windows, you can buy plastic sheets to tape over the windows. Just be sure to tape carefully. That keeps the cold on the outside of the windows.

Keeping doors and windows closed is another way to save energy. Heat can leave your home if you leave the door open when you take out the trash. Close that door to save money.

Insulation helps save energy. Insulation is a layer between the cold and you. It can keep warmth in and cold out. It is a way to keep a home warm in winter and cool in summer. Outside walls are between your family's home and the cold air. Those walls need to have insulation. Your home's insulation may have holes in it. To find them, look at the walls carefully. If you see dirty spots, that is a clue. You may have found a hole in the insulation. You need to patch it. Then you will have a lower energy bill.

Warm clothes are important. A sweater is like insulation you wear. If everyone in your family wears a sweater inside, you are warmer. Then you could turn your heat down and save money.

Many people turn heat down at night. It is colder at night. But they do not turn up the heat. They use extra blankets to keep warm. They cut down their energy bill. They save money while they sleep.

Infer and Support the Main Idea – Nonfiction

Questions developed by Center for Urban Education for use by Chicago Public Schools 2008-2009.

Choose the best answer for each question.

1. What is the main idea of this passage?

- a. Chicago is cold.
- b. People need warm clothes.
- c. Insulation saves money.
- d. You can cut energy costs.

3. Which of these facts is important to know about how insulation helps people?

- a. It costs money.
- b. It saves money.
- c. It helps people at night.
- d. It is part of your windows.

2. Which of these is the main idea of the last paragraph?

- a. People need blankets.
- b. It is cold at night.
- c. People use blankets to save money.
- d. People need to keep warm at night.

4. What is the main idea of the paragraph about insulation?

- a. You need to patch walls.
- b. Insulation saves energy costs.
- c. People need winter clothes.
- d. Turn down the heat to save money.

5. *Write your own answer to this question. Re-read the paragraph about windows. Write what the main idea is.*

TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students' Skills: Exercise Thinking

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student's achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

Answers: *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	1	2	3	4
Answer	d	c	b	b

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.

Answers should include that people should seal windows to conserve energy.