

John: That's something that definitely needs to be researched thoroughly. Tests they've done so far on rats have shown that we can't really predict what impact these foods will have in the long term.

Sarah: I think there's a long way to go yet.

Unit 16

Track 31

Anne: Hi, Pete, have you read this article about the solar farm they're planning to build?

Pete: No, where's that?

Anne: It says they're planning to build large-scale solar farms in Africa.

Pete: Oh. That sounds like a good idea. The only problem with alternative energy sources is that they don't seem to be able to produce enough to meet all our energy needs. I mean, hydroelectric dams have been around for a long time now but they only produce 19% of the world's energy.

Anne: Well, I suppose it all helps, and this plant will supposedly provide up to 15% of Europe's energy needs by 2050.

Pete: Europe? How will they get the electricity there?

Anne: They're going to use undersea cables to carry it there.

Pete: Well, that's a good idea, I suppose. I mean, one of the main criticisms of things like wind farms is how visible the wind turbines are.

Anne: Yeah, I know. People often complain about the noise they make, too, but that isn't an issue with solar power.

Pete: No, but that reminds me. I saw a documentary at the weekend about renewable energy in Scotland.

Anne: Really? Not exactly the perfect spot for a solar farm.

Pete: No, not solar energy, wave energy. They reckon coastal waters could provide up to ten times Scotland's annual electricity usage.

Anne: Wow, that would make them self-sufficient. It's certainly an interesting proposal, and if they generate that much electricity, it would be a remarkable achievement. And it should appeal to the public more than having a nuclear power plant on their doorstep.

Track 32

Mining in Australia probably started with the arrival of Aborigines around 40,000 years ago. Aborigines mined for ochre, a naturally occurring coloured clay which they used for decoration.

'Modern' Australian mining followed the arrival of European settlers in 1788. At first, this mining was limited to the quarrying and shaping of local sandstone, which they used for the first buildings at Sydney Cove.

Coal wasn't found until 1791, when some convicts managed to escape and got as far as Newcastle. The coal industry began in 1798, when ship owners gathered surface coal at Newcastle and brought it to Sydney for sale. Export of Newcastle coal began in the following year with a shipment to India.

Lead was the first metal mined in Australia, on the outskirts of Adelaide in 1841. Lead is one of the oldest metals known to humans. It's relatively simple to extract and it's extremely malleable, so it's easy to shape or flatten into sheets. Lead is usually found in ore, which is the name given to rock that we can extract metal from. It's extracted by a process known as smelting, where the rock, or ore, is heated to extremely high temperatures.

Of course, precious metals and precious stones are the natural resources that most people go in search of in the hope of striking it rich. In 1849, many Australians migrated to the United States during the gold rush. In a bid to stop this, the New South Wales Government decided to offer incentives for Australians to find gold in their own country.

But it is opals rather than gold or diamonds that Australia became famous for. The largest site was discovered in 1915 by a 14-year-old boy. He was with a group of gold diggers. The boy had been sent to look for water when he made the discovery of what was to become the world's largest and most productive opal field at Coober Pedy.

Track 33

alternative	emission	energy
neutral	carbon	battery
efficient	sustainable	recyclable
consumption	renewable	rechargeable

Unit 17

Track 34

Speaker 1: I was promoted last year to head of department. I'm in charge of all of our overseas operations now. It's a golden opportunity for me. It means a lot more responsibility, but I'm hoping it'll also give me a chance to make a name for myself in the industry. One of the projects I took on recently involved setting up a new office in China so we can break into that market. It's a big investment in terms of time and capital, but I think it's a calculated risk and it should pay off over time. Because it is a risk, we decided to amalgamate with a Chinese company. I was involved in the negotiations and drawing up the contracts for it. The other company was looking for an exporter and we were looking for a local manufacturer, so it's a win-win situation, really.

Speaker 2: Running a company this size is never an easy task, and it's only through sheer hard work and determination we've become the household name we are today. I employ over 2,000 staff, but I take a hands-on approach to management and so I keep track of how things are going in just about every department. Things aren't running very smoothly in our domestic sales at the moment. The main problem seems to be the supervisor, who I appointed myself. It was a promotion for him and he seemed ready to take on the extra responsibility. He certainly knows all the tricks of the trade, but his department is barely breaking even. In terms of his own management style, he certainly seems to communicate well with his team, and holds regular meetings. But just this month they missed an important deadline and cost us an important client. He just doesn't seem to be able to get the best out of his staff and the bottom line is, we're running a business here and we need to be profitable. If things don't improve soon, I'll be forced to make cutbacks in that department.