

- B** Read the article. Did you guess the topic correctly?

Power of the Sun



Pilots Bertrand Piccard and Andre Borschberg

- 1** In July 2016, pilots Bertrand Piccard and Andre Borschberg completed the first flight around the world using only the power of the sun. It was a slow journey because of bad weather and technical problems. But the pilots didn't give up. They managed to fly their plane – the Solar Impulse 2 – around the world in 505 days without using one drop of fuel.
- 2** Why was this journey important? It showed the world that it is possible to travel long distances using only the energy of the sun, called solar energy. And that is great news because it means that in the future we may not need to use fuel to get from place to place. “We still have a long way to go,” says solar energy expert Daniel Hoover, “but it is certainly a step in the right direction”.
- 3** Solar energy has a lot of advantages. It is clean energy because it causes hardly any pollution. It is also a renewable¹ source of energy. This means that it doesn't run out. As long as the sun keeps shining, we will be able to enjoy the clean energy that it provides.
- 4** Today, more and more people are using solar energy in their homes. They agree that it is very useful because it saves them a lot of money on electricity. Also, cities are turning to solar power in order to lower costs. For example, today you can see solar-powered² signs on the roads. Some are advertisements and others give information about upcoming events. There are also many signs that let drivers know how fast they're driving or warn them about a problem on the road.
- 5** There are already many items that use solar energy such as, smartphone chargers, solar backpacks, solar flashlights and even solar ovens. The possibilities are endless.



The Solar Impulse

¹renewable מתחדש / متجدد

²solar-powered מופעלים באנרגיה סולארית / مشغلة بالطاقة الشمسية

- C** Answer the questions about the article.

- Piccard and Borschberg's plane flew around the world without using
 - solar energy
 - regular fuel
 - the power of the sun
- Why did the flight take such a long time? Give TWO reasons.
- What is Daniel Hoover's profession?
- What does Hoover think about Piccard and Borschberg's flight? How do you know?
 - It is a good beginning.
 - It was a waste of time.
 - It took too long.
- The writer mentions THREE advantages of solar energy in paragraphs 3 and 4. What are they?
- Which TWO of the following items that use solar power are used on the roads?
 - smartphone chargers
 - flashlights
 - speed signs
 - backpacks
 - advertisements
- In paragraph 5, the writer says: “The possibilities are endless”. What “possibilities” is he talking about?

- D** Think of other uses for solar energy that are NOT mentioned in the article.

SKY HIGH PLUS!

- Read about the Solar Impulse 2 – the first solar plane to fly around the world.

The Solar Impulse 2 was built to save energy. Look at the picture. Do you see its wide wings? There are solar panels* on top of these wings. They catch the energy of the sun so that the plane can fly long distances without using a drop of fuel.

To save energy, the engineers also tried to make the plane as light as possible. That is why there is only one pilot's seat. This made the journey especially challenging for the pilots Piccard and Borschberg because they couldn't be together on the plane at the same time. They had to take turns flying the plane.



solar panels

*solar panels קולטים (לוחות) סולאריים / ألواح شمسية

- Go online and find more information about the history of flight.
- Share your findings with the class.