

Windmill

Wind is a natural phenomenon. A long time ago, man realized that it was easier to move following the wind's direction than to go against it. This unique characteristic of wind has made it a recyclable and efficient source of power. This fact was then applied specifically along coastlines and around lagoons.

According to a research report, globally, wind power is a hundred times more available than other sources of power. Therefore, there have been many inventions that have used the wind as the source of power. In 600 BC, a Persian designed the world's first piece of equipment that was powered by wind. Since then, men have invented ships, windmills and other wind-powered equipment.

In 200 BC, a Persian slave was struggling with a less-than efficient animal-powered piece of equipment. He believed that wind power could be used to overcome this limitation. After a few attempts, he built the world's first windmill. This windmill was built using bricks with ventilation holes in the front and at the back. Its interior was equipped with a huge axle. The axle wings were made using fibrous and elastic reed leaves. When the wind entered the front ventilation holes, it created movement, and the wind was then expelled through the back ventilation holes.



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The creation of this windmill received good reviews, which were well-received, and the windmill was extensively used. In the 12th century, this windmill was brought to Europe. The Europeans utilized this windmill to grind their grain and to lift water from wells. Even before the end of the 19th century, the use of windmills had spread throughout the world. The trend continued until the emergence of the steam engine when the traditional windmill was eventually replaced.

In 1973, wind power was re-emphasized once again due to the energy crisis. Wind power is recyclable, and it does not cause any pollution to the environment, making it one of the most reliable sources of power. Many countries, including the USA, have also invented and built huge numbers of wind-powered plants to supply energy to the whole country.



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Food for Thought:

- Humans have constantly modified and improved their ancestors' inventions according to the market demand for more favorable, applicable and efficient products and services.
- The world is now trending on green technology in order to save electricity, to reduce energy usage and to reduce the release of carbon monoxide. Students too can challenge themselves by inventing better green products using the unlimited resources of wind or other non-polluting sources of power.



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