



## Electric Vehicles Reading Comprehension

Vehicles that rely on the combustion of fossil fuels contribute significantly to climate change. **Electric vehicles**, however, are now providing a viable alternative to petrol/diesel vehicles, which will help to **reduce greenhouse gas emissions** from the transportation sector. This activity is designed to introduce your students to this popular climate solution while helping them practise their **reading comprehension skills**.

We suggest having your students read the passage about electric vehicles **before** answering the comprehension questions. Alternatively, as a class, you can hypothesise about the contents of the text and answers to the questions prior to completing the reading.



### Answer key

**What is the difference between a petrol/diesel vehicle and an electric vehicle? Which is better for the environment?**

A petrol/diesel vehicle burns petrol/diesel. Its exhaust is very harmful to the environment. Electric vehicles rely on electricity and don't release greenhouse gases. Electric vehicles are better for the environment than petrol/diesel vehicles because they don't burn petrol/diesel. Burning petrol and diesel releases greenhouse gases that cause climate change. Instead, these vehicles rely on electricity.

**Why did electric vehicles gain popularity in the early 20th century?**

Electric vehicles gained popularity in the early 20th century because they didn't shake or release nasty smells like petrol/diesel vehicles did at the time. They also allowed people to move around within their city more easily.

**Why did electric vehicles lose popularity in the 1930s?**

Electric vehicles lost popularity in the 1930s because they were expensive and could not cover long distances.

**Which type of purely electric vehicle would you recommend to a friend? Why?**

Answers may vary.

**True or False: hybrid vehicles are better for the environment/climate than electric vehicles. Explain your answer.**

False, electric vehicles are better for the environment because they don't burn any petrol/diesel in order to run. Hybrid vehicles still burn some petrol/diesel and therefore release some greenhouse gases.



**What are three problems that need to be solved for electric vehicles to become more popular than petrol/diesel vehicles?**

To become more popular than petrol/diesel vehicles, electric vehicles need to become cheaper, be able to travel longer distances, and take less time to charge.

**What do you think the future holds for electric vehicles?**

Answers may vary.

We welcome feedback and would be delighted to hear your thoughts on this activity. Feel free to send an email to [schools@climatescience.org](mailto:schools@climatescience.org) and we'll be sure to get back to you soon :)

