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June and her friends design and make a solar-powered oven which they use to cook pizza crackers. After they test the oven, they make adjustments to improve the way it works.

Ages: 5 to 8 years

ATOS Reading Level: X

Lexile: X

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June's Solar Oven

Will June's solar oven cook the pizza crackers?

What is STEAM? Learning through Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics. Through STEAM, children problem solve, innovate, create, and collaborate.

STEAM Topics in This Book: energy, heat, absorption, reflection, insulation

Activities To Do Together:

June's Solar Oven explores the idea of converting sunlight into heat.

Before reading the book:

- Talk together about a time you walked on concrete with bare feet on a sunny day. What did you notice?
- Ask your child to tell you what it's like to get into a car on a sunny day. How does the interior of the car feel? What does the air in the car feel like? Why do you think the air feels that way?
- Ask your child if they have heard of a solar oven. What do they think it is?

While reading the book:

- Ask your child to think about whether the ideas in the story will work. Encourage them to explain their thinking.
- Talk with your child about how they would have arranged the pizza toppings and why.

When you have finished reading the book:

- June and her friends used a cardboard box and aluminum foil to create a solar oven. Encourage your child to design their own solar oven. Create a materials list together.
 - Ask your child:
 - Would you use the same materials that June used or something else?
 - What would you do if your solar oven did not work well?
 - What would you cook in your solar oven?

- Encourage your child to research (or research together) how solar energy is used. What else can we use solar energy for?
- On a hot, sunny day, go outside to explore the temperature of different surfaces. Ask your child to compare the different surfaces and share what they notice.

Questions for STEAM Thinking:

1. Why did June make a sketch of the oven before they built it?
2. Under what conditions would a solar oven work best? What conditions wouldn't work well?
3. Why didn't the solar oven melt the cheese at first? What did the children do to fix that?
4. How does a solar oven work?
5. What are some things that might be difficult to cook in a solar oven? Why do you think so?
6. What things might be easy to cook in a solar oven? Why do you think so?
7. What would you like to cook in a solar oven?

Early Math Project Resources:

Visit [June's Solar Oven](https://countplayexplore.org/book/junes-solar-oven) (countplayexplore.org/book/junes-solar-oven) to find activities and related California Mathematics Standards and Next Generation Science Standards for this book.



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Vocabulary

STEAM words found in the story:

absorption, compare, convert, design, energy, experiment, heat, insulation, light, reflection, solar, sunlight, test

Related STEAM

words: alternative energy, conduction, solar energy, variable

Words to build reading

comprehension:

aluminum, huddled, pepperoni, skewer

Spanish Title: El horno solar de June

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Related Books: *The Most Magnificent Thing* by Ashley Spires; *Mazie's Amazing Machines* by Sheryl Haft

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