

## Energy Crossroads Answer Key

1. Coal has been widely available in Poland, provided many jobs, and supplied most of the country's electricity for decades.
2. Wind energy reduces pollution and carbon emissions by replacing fossil fuels with cleaner power.
3. Poland has strong coastal winds, open plains, and suitable conditions for building wind farms.
4. Coal regions rely on mining for jobs and income, making transitions challenging for communities and local economies.
5. Answers will vary but should include renewable sources such as wind, solar, or nuclear along with reasons related to energy security, economy, or environment.

### Teacher's Guide

#### Purpose

- Builds understanding of Poland's energy challenges and opportunities.
- Encourages analytical thinking appropriate for grades 9 to 12.
- Helps students connect energy geography with economics, environment, and policy.

#### Differentiation Tips

- Provide key vocabulary such as emissions, renewable, transition, fossil fuels, and energy mix.
- Allow students to annotate the passage and highlight evidence before answering.

#### Engagement Ideas

- Begin with a class discussion about where energy in students' own communities comes from.
- Show images of Polish coal mines and Baltic wind turbines to build visual understanding.
- Conduct a short debate on the benefits and drawbacks of nuclear energy for Poland.