**Reading Questions for The Grand Solar Plan, Scientific American, January 2008**

Article PDF is found in Unit 2 folder.

1. **Towards the goal of ending US dependence on foreign oil by utilizing solar energy – identify and describe the various technologies, and how they would be connected/integrated in the energy system.**
2. Would the plan require new technologies, or just some improvements in existing technologies?
3. What would take up more land to produce the power needed by 2050, solar or coal?
4. How much money would the plan require in the form of subsidies, and how would the needed new infrastructure (that you hopefully identified in #1) be paid for, according to the authors? Note that the amount is substantially less than what has been spent directly in the Iraq war so far – and that the amount could be spent over a period of decades.
5. Besides freeing the US from foreign oil, what other benefits would the plan give the country, according to the authors?
6. Why would the plan “ironically” reduce total energy consumption?
7. In what part of the country would most of the solar energy be harvested, according to the plan?
8. **What are three different forms of energy storage outlined in the plan? Discuss.** (If you didn’t already discuss this in #1)
9. On what type of power lines would electricity be sent to regions in the country like the Pacific Northwest?

Thought Questions

1. **Who is more patriotic in the United States, someone who offers no real alternative to oil dependency, or someone who does propose a realistic alternative that is based on existing technology? Discuss.**
2. **Construct an argument that the efforts described in the article require a true, integrated plan, and would not happen so well or so quickly without one.**