

Engine Inefficiency Science Project Idea

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Science project idea on causes of engine inefficiency.
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Causes of inefficiency of engines.

In engines in which the burning of fuel is the source of energy, there are other losses in addition to that due to friction. Suggest some of the ways in which energy in the form of heat is lost from a steam engine; also the gasoline engine. It has been estimated that in the steam engine about 95 per cent of the energy of the coal is lost, and that the efficiency of the engine is only about 5 per cent. In the gasoline engine, since no heat escapes in the ashes and smoke and less surface is exposed to be cooled, the loss is considerably less and the efficiency of the engine may be as high as 30 or 35 per cent.

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In the oxidation of fuel in the muscles of the human body, only about 25 per cent of the energy is transformed into working energy; 75 per cent of it taking the form of heat. Explain why we become so heated while exercising. Suggest how shivering, when we are cold, may be of value to the body.

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