

D1 ACTIVITY 5: THE GOOD HOME

Background

In this topic students explore energy efficiency in the home. The activity aims at helping students to deepen their understanding of BER ratings and insulation materials, and to give them an insight into how these materials can be used to insulate their own homes.

Terms such as **passive home** and **geothermal heating** are introduced and examined.

What to do:

- Arrange the students into groups and assign different topics for them to research and present to the class in poster form. There are suitable research resources below.

SOME EXAMPLES OF APPROPRIATE TOPICS ARE:

- ✓ *Insulating the attic (floor or eaves?)*
 - ✓ *The pros and cons of different exterior building surfaces such as pebble dash or cladding*
 - ✓ *Triple glazing versus double glazing*
 - ✓ *Metal versus wooden window frames*
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Resources:

- The SEAI website has a useful page on [BER ratings](#).
- Learn the [relevant terminology](#) in buildings.
- Information on different types of [external building materials](#).
- Get more information on Passive House from the [Passive House Association of Ireland](#).
- It might be useful to show the class [this short animated slideshow on passive housing](#).
- [SEAI guide to home insulation](#).
- [SEAI energy saving tips](#).