(MUSIC)

JOAN CARTAN-HANSEN, HOST: NUCLEAR ENERGY HARNESSES THE POWER INSIDE ATOMS BY CHANGING THEIR STRUCTURE.

THE ENERGY WE USE IN NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS IS CALLED FISSION.

NUCLEAR FISSION RELEASES ENERGY BY SPLITTING ATOMS.

NUCLEAR FUSION HAPPENS WHEN TWO LIGHTER ATOMS ARE COMBINED INTO A LARGER ONE.

THE SUN IS FUELED BY NUCLEAR FUSION.

IT TAKES EXTREME AMOUNTS OF PRESSURE AND TEMPERATURE TO FUSE OR COMBINE ATOMS,

SO, WE ON EARTH DON’T HAVE A WAY TO PRODUCE LARGE AMOUNTS OF ENERGY BY NUCLEAR FUSION.

BUT SCIENTISTS ARE WORKING ON IT BECAUSE NUCLEAR FUSION USES ELEMENTS LIKE HYDROGEN, SO THERE IS AN ALMOST UNLIMITED AMOUNT OF FUEL AVAILABLE.

AND THAT COULD LEAD TO UNLIMITED, CHEAP ENERGY.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT NUCLEAR ENERGY, CHECK OUT THE SCIENCE TREK WEBSITE FOR THIS AND ALL OUR SCIENCE TOPICS FOR KIDS.

YOU’LL FIND IT AT IDAHOPTV.ORG/SCIENCE TREK

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