Earth’s Natural Resources

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Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ resource is something that grows in nature.

They help keep us alive or make our lives better.

Examples of natural resources include:

Sun, water, soil, plants, fossil fuels, and air.

There are two types of natural resources: Renewable and

Nonrenewable

**Renewable** Resources can be replaced or used over and over again.

Examples

* Farmers use soil year after year to plant their crops.
* New trees can be planted and new animals can be raised.
* Water moves from one part of Earth to the other in the water cycle.

**Nonrenewable** Resources can NOT be reused or replaced easily. Once it is used up, we can NOT get more of it.

Examples

* Minerals such as gems and metals
* Fossil Fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas.
* Gasoline made from fossil fuels
* These resources are nonrenewable because they take BILLIONS of years to form or they are hard to find.

*“ONCE YOU USE IT, YOU LOSE IT!”*

**ENERGY SOURCES**

Scientists have discovered ways to use natural sources for energy. These are called **natural energy**.

Examples are sunlight, water, and wind.

Natural energy is cleaner for the environment and is renewable. Natural energy COSTS MORE. It is hard to control the resources in order to use them for energy and power.

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Sunlight (Solar) Power Wind Power Water Power

**ENERGY SOURCES**

Our natural resources help us to have more than one source of energy. We use energy from **fossil fuels** every day.

The fossil fuels that give us energy are oil, coal, and natural gas. We use these fossil fuels to help us heat our homes, cook our food, and drive our cars.

Fossil fuels are nonrenewable. Once we use them all up, we will not be able to get any more for billions of years. They also pollute, or hurt, the environment.

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OIL Natural Gas COAL

Regardless of which type of energy we use, we must CONSERVE (OR SAVE) it!

We have to be careful and use it wisely. We must save it when possible.

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**Important Vocabulary**

1. Natural Resource: something that grows in nature; it is already here one Earth
2. Renewable Resource: resources that can be REPLACED Ex- Soil, trees, animals
3. Nonrenewable Resource: resources that CANNOT be replaced; once they are gone, we can’t get more
4. Natural Energy: a cleaner, more expensive way to make energy or power (renewable)

Ex- solar power, wind power, water power

1. Fossil Fuels: a nonrenewable resource

Ex- oil, natural gas, coal

* The common way to make energy or power.

1. Reduce- use less
2. Reuse- use again
3. Recycle- old to new
4. Conserve- to save