

Lesson 6: Interacting with the Land

☐ Getting Started

The land and water that surrounds you are essential to your survival. They provide the natural resources people use every day. Different geographical regions provide different resources. Today you will learn about the resources found in the environment.

Stuff You Need

- crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- scissors
- glue or tape

Ideas to Think About

- How do humans interact with and alter their natural environment?
- How do the physical characteristics of an environment such as its landforms, water forms, and climate cycles influence the development of local cultures?

Things to Know

- The environment provides natural resources that meet humans' basic needs: water, air, food, the raw materials needed for fuel and to make clothing, tools, housing, and other necessary and/or useful items.
- Air, water, plants, animals, rocks, and minerals are all examples of **natural resources**.
- Naturally occurring resources in the local environment can include both **renewable resources** and **non-renewable resources**.
- **Renewable resources** are either impossible to exhaust (like the wind or sunlight) or can be replaced by the environment relatively quickly.
- **Non-renewable resources** exist in limited quantities on Earth and either cannot be replaced or can be replaced only through very slow processes.
- The landforms, water forms, and climate of a region can determine the kinds of natural resources that are available for human use.

Activities

☐ Activity 1: Natural Resources

Humans use a variety of resources from the natural environment in their lives every day including air, water, land, minerals, plants, animals, and energy resources. Use

the "Natural Resources" activity page to identify some of the ways that your family uses natural resources every day.

☐ **Activity 2: Renewable and Non-Renewable Resources**

As you probably noticed in Activity 1, humans use natural resources in hundreds of ways every day. Some natural resources are easy to replace, and others are not. Some natural resources are renewable, meaning that humans can use them without worrying that they will run out. Renewable resources are either impossible to exhaust (like the wind or sunlight) or can be replaced by the environment relatively quickly (like trees, which can be replanted when some are cut down, or water, which is returned through the water cycle).

Other resources are non-renewable. Non-renewable natural resources exist in limited quantities on Earth and either cannot be replaced or can be replaced only through very slow processes (like the processes that create fossil fuels from organic matter). Non-renewable resources can often be conserved, reused, or recycled to help them last longer. Use the "Renewable and Non-Renewable Resources" activity pages to determine which resources are renewable and which are non-renewable.

☐ **Activity 3: State Resource Map**

You have learned about a variety of maps. Do you remember learning about a resource map? Click on the following link to view a resource map of the United States. It is not very detailed because it covers the whole country and only a few resources. Find the key on the left. What resources are represented on the map?



United States Resources

www.beyondthepage.com/link/11918/

Today you will create a resource map for your state. First use the following links to find an outline map of your state to print. If you prefer, you can draw or trace an outline of your state on a clean sheet of paper. The outline should take up most of the page. Write the name of your state at the top of your map: "Resource Map of _____."



State Outlines

www.beyondthepage.com/link/11919/

Scroll down to the USA State Outlines section, and choose your state from the list.

**Printable Maps**

www.beyondthepage.com/link/11920/

Click the name of the state you want, and then click the outline map.

Now type in the name of your state and "resource map" into a search engine (like Google or Bing). You should find a variety of maps. Try to find a map with a key of the resources and symbols that will not be difficult to draw. On your map, create a map key for your resources. Then draw them on your state where they can be found.

Wrapping Up

Natural resources exist in every part of the world, and humans use those resources in a wide variety of ways. Some resources, like sunlight or wind power, can never run out, while others, like coal or oil, exist in limited quantity. Think about how many resources you use each week that are non-renewable and what you could do to make those resources last as long as possible.

Life Application

Think about how your family uses your most immediate natural resources - those found in your own backyard or neighborhood. How do you use the natural resources around you? Do you plant a garden? Do you have rain barrels to collect rainfall? Do you use nearby forests for hiking or playing? Do you hunt or fish? Talk to your family members about what you can do together to conserve the natural resources nearby and have a positive impact on your environment.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Directions: Every day we use natural resources. For example, we breathe the air that is provided in our natural environment and we might use the land we live on for gardening and recreation. Walk through your home and yard and write down examples of how you use the following kinds of natural resources every day – be sure to include products made from these resources (for example, cotton clothing is made from plant fibers).

Water

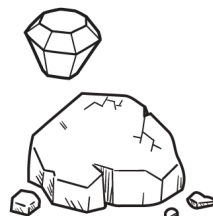


Sources of Energy

(ex. propane, gasoline, oil)



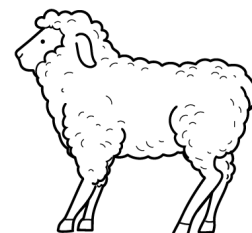
Rocks & Minerals



Plants



Animals



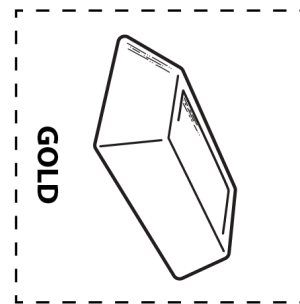
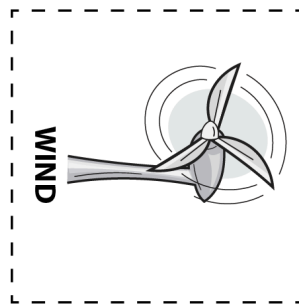
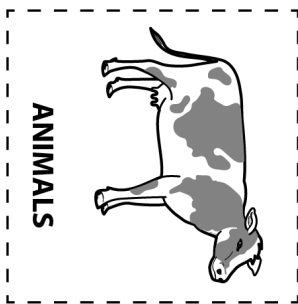
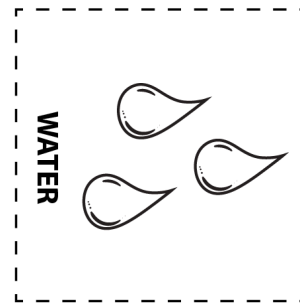
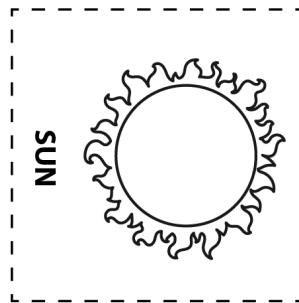
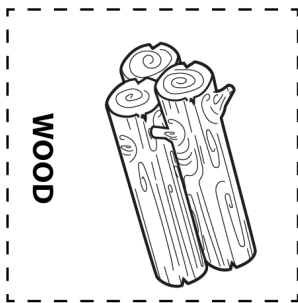
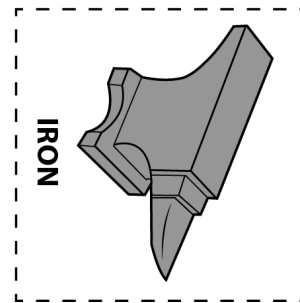
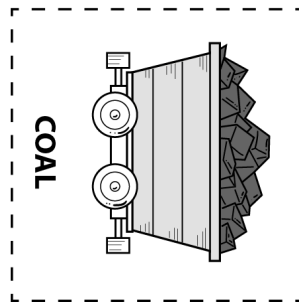
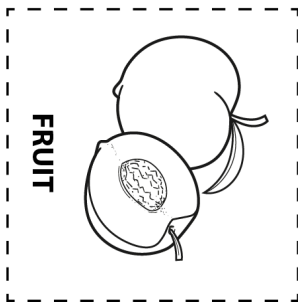
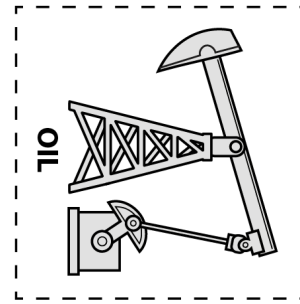
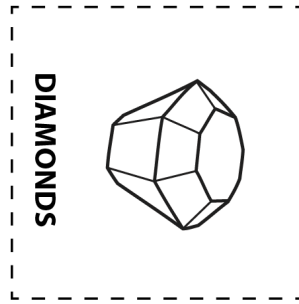
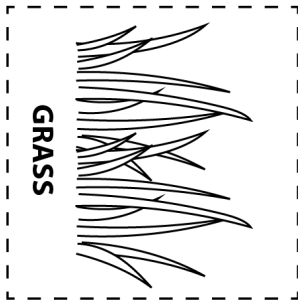
Renewable and Non-Renewable Resources

Directions: Cut out the pictures of resources on page 2 and decide whether each is renewable or non-renewable. Glue or tape each resource in the appropriate box. If you can think of a way that a resource can be conserved, reused or recycled, color that resource green.

Renewable

Non - Renewable

Renewable and Non-Renewable Resources



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⦿ Skills

- Know that natural resources, including water, can be limited and can be affected by human actions. (SS)
- Explain how people adapt to, modify, and use their physical environments. (SS)
- Discuss and analyze how humans influence erosion and deposition in local communities as a result of activities like clearing land, planting vegetation, or building dams or other water-altering structures. (SS)

Introducing the Lesson

Let your child know that, in today's lesson, she'll learn more about the natural resources that humans draw from their environments to provide for their needs.

Activities

Activity 1: Natural Resources

In this activity, your child will identify natural resources that she uses every day in her environment. Your child may benefit from your suggestions as she looks for items derived from natural resources around your home.

Activity 2: Renewable and Non-Renewable Resources

In this activity, your child will categorize natural resources as renewable or non-renewable and think about how resources can be conserved, reused, or recycled to make them last longer.

Answer Key:

- Renewable resources: water, sun, wind, grass, fruit, wood, animals
- Non-renewable resources: oil, iron, gold, diamonds, coal

Activity 3: State Resource Map

In this activity, your child creates a resource map of your state by researching where important natural resources are found and representing them with symbols on a map. As she works, she practices using map keys, interpreting resource maps, and locating information from reliable sources. Encourage her to explain why certain resources are found in particular parts of the state and how those resources are important to the people and economy of your state.

Wrapping Up**Questions to Discuss**

- What natural resources are important to human survival? (Natural resources important to human survival include water for drinking, fertile soil for growing food, and trees for building homes. Minerals for making tools and fuels for energy are also crucial.)
- How do you think the physical geography of a place — its landforms, water forms, and climate — influence the amounts and kinds of natural resources available to the people who live there? (The physical geography of a place, including its landforms, water bodies, and climate, influences the types and amounts of natural resources available by determining what can grow there, what animals can live there, and what minerals and water sources are accessible. For example, fertile plains might have lots of good soil for farming, while mountains might have minerals and forests.)

Things to Review

- Discuss the "Renewable and Non-Renewable Resources" page with your child. Which items did she color green, meaning that she could think of a way to conserve, reuse, or recycle the resources? Talk about those ideas with your child, and if she is interested in learning more, do some research together about the ways in which these resources are being conserved, reused, or recycled today.
- Review your child's resource map of your state. What resources are represented on the map? Ask her she learned anything surprising about the resources in your state while making the map?
- Review the vocabulary terms in the "Things to Know" section of previous lessons.