

## USING AND SAVING NATURAL RESOURCES

### Earth's Natural Resources

**Natural resources** are found on the Earth and are important to living things. Some natural resources come from below the Earth's surface.

#### Using Earth's Resources

People, plants, and animals need **air** to live. Air is a natural resource that never runs out!

**Water** is another natural resource that people and animals use – they drink water in order to survive. Plants also need water to grow.



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Water is a resource that will never run out thanks to the Earth's water cycle!

**Soil** is a natural resource that plants need. Plants grow in soil. If plants did not grow, animals would not have anything to eat!

***Let's check what we have learned so far:  
Name one natural resource that plants and animals need.***

## Renewable Natural Resources

Some **natural resources** are **renewable**, which means that they can be replaced if we run out of them.

Trees are an example of a **renewable resource**. If we cut down too many, or if too many die, we can plant more trees!



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## Non-Renewable

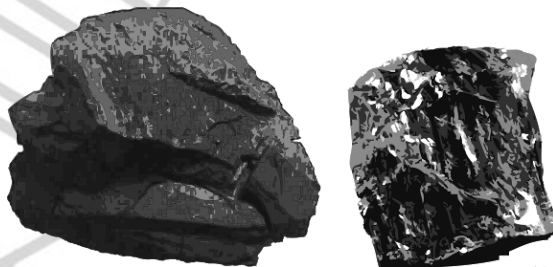
Some **natural resources**  
can NOT be replaced.

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## Coal

Coal is nonrenewable natural resource. Coal is burned and releases energy. This energy is used for many things, like for making electricity and heat for our homes and schools.

We can dig up coal from the earth, but once the Earth's supply of coal is gone, it can't be replaced. It takes millions of years for the Earth to create coal.



## Oil

Oil is another **nonrenewable natural resource**. Oil is made into gasoline, which makes our cars run. We use oil—or petroleum—for many other things. We use it to make plastic, and some people use it to heat their homes.



Since there are many **nonrenewable resources** that are important to us, we need to use them wisely. Here are some ways to do that.



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## How Can We

We can use our resources wisely by **CONSERVING** those important resources.

**Conserving** means to use these resources carefully and to be careful not to waste them.

## What are some ways we can protect the Earth and **CONSERVE** natural resources?

1. Do not waste water. You can turn the water off when you are brushing your teeth and you can take shorter showers.
2. Turn out the lights when you leave a room!
3. Do not litter – throw trash away in a trash can, not on the ground!

4. Do not put bad things in water. Bad things can pollute water. **Pollute** means to make unclean. Pollution can kill animals.



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**PREVIEW**

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7. Recycle, recycle, recycle! Recycle means to make new things out of old things. Most towns and cities recycle the plastic, cans, bottles, and paper that people use. The used things are put through a machine to make them into something else. For example, they can take your used soda and water bottles and make new carpet out of them! Make sure you recycle things made out of glass, plastic, cans, and paper.



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