

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. People who dig in the ground to dig up rocks and gather **natural resources** are called miners. Certain rocks, called **ores**, contain metals, such as gold, silver, iron and other **minerals** that people use everyday.

Lesson Checkpoint: What is a natural resource?

Renewable Resources

Some **natural resources** are **renewable**, which means that can be replaced. Trees are an example of a **renewable resource**. Three examples of natural resources we have in abundance on Earth are: sunlight, air, and water.



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Lesson Checkpoint: What are three natural resources that Earth has an endless supply of?

Nonrenewable Resources

Some **natural resources** are **nonrenewable**, which means that can NOT be replaced. Iron is an example of a **nonrenewable natural resource**. Coal is another nonrenewable resource. Coal is burned and releases energy. This energy is used for many things, such as generating electricity and heat. We can dig up coal from the earth, but once the Earth's supply of coal is gone, it can't be replaced. Oil is another **nonrenewable natural resource**. Oil is used in many things, including gasoline, which makes our cars run. Since there are many **nonrenewable resources** that are important to us, we need to use them wisely and carefully.

Lesson Checkpoint: **What is a nonrenewable natural resource?**

We can use our resources wisely by **CONSERVING** those important resources. **Conservation** is a way of using things wisely without wasting them.

Water is an important resource. One way you can conserve water is by brushing your teeth. You can probably

Even nature helps us conserve water. Rain and helps us reuse the water. It falls on the ground and helps us reuse it. Soil in the water helps us conserve water. Then the plants use the water.



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Lesson Checkpoint: **What is one way you can conserve water at home?**

Soil is another **natural resource** that we need to **conserve** and use wisely. Soil needs to be protected from wind and water that cause erosion and it needs to be enriched with nutrients at times.

Leaves and grass clippings can be turned into compost instead of being thrown away. **Compost** is decayed grass and leaves that you can add to your soil to provide nutrients.

Lesson Checkpoint: What is compost?

Reducing Our Trash

Where does all our smelly garbage go to anyway? A **landfill** is a large area where trash is collected and buried. A liner is placed on a landfill before trash is buried on the land so that the groundwater under the landfill is not polluted. Landfills are filling up and closing down more and more each year. So it is important that we try to reduce the amount of trash we throw away.

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We can also reduce the amount of trash we throw away at home, by following the three Rs:

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Reduce

For example, you can **reduce** the amount of trash you throw away by using only plates, bowls, and silverware that you can wash and use over again, rather than using paper products.

Reuse

We can **reuse** certain items instead of throwing them away. For example, instead of throwing away a shoebox, we could reuse it and store something like pictures inside of it instead.

Recycle

Paper, plastic, aluminum, and glass, can be placed in special collection containers which are collected by a Recycling Truck. These items are taken to places where the items can be made into something new. This process is called **recycling**.



Recycling is extremely important. **Recycling** is when we take trash made out of certain materials and these materials are made into new products. The four main materials are paper, plastic, glass, and aluminum.



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