

## NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

**Natural Resources** are useful resources that come from the earth and sky and help humans live on Earth.



**Air** is all around us. It has the oxygen we need to breath.

**Water** is one of the most important natural resources. Our Earth is almost 70% water. Water is used for drinking, washing, fishing and many other things. Water is a renewable resource.

The **Sun** is a natural resource that provides us with light and heat. The Sun is a source that is not used up and is in orbit.

**Soil** is the ground that plants grow in. Soil is a natural resource that makes up the Earth. We use soil to grow crops and plants.



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**Forests** are the trees that grow on the Earth. They clean the air and make the oxygen we need to breath. They provide us with wood to build and make products such as paper. Forests provide homes for wildlife and keep the soil from eroding.

**Fossil fuels** such as natural gas and oil are natural resources created and stored deep within the Earth. We use them for fuel, heat, and manufacturing.



**Ores and minerals** are natural resources in the Earth such as copper, gold, salt, silver.

**Renewable resources** can be replaced in a short time. Water is constantly replaced in the natural cycle of evaporation, condensation, precipitation and run-off. But pollution and wasting of water makes it very costly. **Nonrenewable resources** are being used faster than they are being replaced. In some places, the resources do not support growth.

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**Nonrenewable resources** cannot be replaced.

**Conservation** is the care and protection of land, water, air, plants and animals. To conserve means to use natural resources carefully to make them last for future generations.

**National Parks** have been established by our government to conserve scenic, scientific, and historical land.

- Yellowstone National Park was dedicated in 1872. It is more than 2 million acres in the states of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming.
- Everglades is a National Park in Florida. It has over 1 million acres of land and water.
- The Grand Canyon is a National Park in Arizona.
- The Great Smoky Mountains is a park in Tennessee and North Carolina.
- Acadia National Park is on the coast of Maine.
- There are more national parks in several regions of the US.

**Wildlife refuges** are places where animals and plants are protected by law.

**Earth Day** is celebrated every year on **April 22**. The first Earth Day in 1970 was a day to clean up litter, conserve energy, and think of ways to protect the environment.

**Recycling** means to reuse products made from natural resources. In many states, people pay a nickel or dime deposit on cans and bottles. Instead of being thrown away, they can be returned to the store to get the deposit back. Then they can be used to make new cans and bottles. Many people recycle newspaper and cardboard so that it can be recycled. New trees do not have to be cut down to make more paper products.



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### **Try this!**

Look in the trash basket in your classroom or home. What do you see that could be recycled?