Natural Resources

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: Renewable resources can be replaced or won't run out (sun, wind, trees). **Nonrenewable** resources can run out (oil, coal, gas).

Ask: Can nature make more of it soon? Yes → renewable. No → nonrenewable.

Gifts from Nature



Natural resources are things from nature that people use. Water, air, soil, trees, sunlight, rocks, oil and animals are all natural resources.

Some natural resources are **renewable**. They can be replaced, or they never run out. Sunlight and wind are always there. Trees can be replanted, and fresh water is refilled by rain.

Other resources are **nonrenewable**. Once we use them up, they are gone, because nature takes millions of years to make more. Oil, natural gas, coal and many minerals are nonrenewable.

Because some resources can run out, it's important to use them wisely. We can turn off lights, walk or bike instead of driving, and choose energy from the Sun and wind.

1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. What is a natural resource?

(a) Something from nature that people use (b) Something made in a factory
(c) A kind of toy

2. What does renewable mean?

(a) It can never be used. (b) It can be replaced or won't run out.
(c) It is very expensive.

3. Why is oil nonrenewable?

(a) It takes millions of years to form. (b) It grows back every year.
(c) It comes from the Sun.

4. Which helps save natural resources?

(a) Leaving lights on (b) Biking instead of driving (c) Wasting water

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2. Renewable or not?

Circle renewable or nonrenewable.

1	sunlight	renewable	nonrenewable
2	coal	renewable	nonrenewable
3	wind	renewable	nonrenewable
4	oil	renewable	nonrenewable
5	trees	renewable	nonrenewable
6	natural gas	renewable	nonrenewable

3. Think like a scientist

Answer in a complete sentence.

1. **Trees are renewable. What must people do to make sure we never run out of trees?**

Answer Key

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1. Check your understanding

1. **What is a natural resource?**
   - (a) **Something from nature that people use**
   - (b) Something made in a factory
   - (c) A kind of toy

2. **What does renewable mean?**
   - (a) It can never be used.
   - (b) **It can be replaced or won't run out.**
   - (c) It is very expensive.

3. **Why is oil nonrenewable?**
   - (a) **It takes millions of years to form.**
   - (b) It grows back every year.
   - (c) It comes from the Sun.

4. **Which helps save natural resources?**
   - (a) Leaving lights on
   - (b) **Biking instead of driving**
   - (c) Wasting water

2. Renewable or not?

1	sunlight	**renewable**	nonrenewable
2	coal	renewable	**nonrenewable**
3	wind	**renewable**	nonrenewable
4	oil	renewable	**nonrenewable**
5	trees	**renewable**	nonrenewable
6	natural gas	renewable	**nonrenewable**

3. Think like a scientist

Sample answer.

1. **Trees are renewable. What must people do to make sure we never run out of trees?**
   People must plant new trees when they cut old ones down, and not cut too many at once.