

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

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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?

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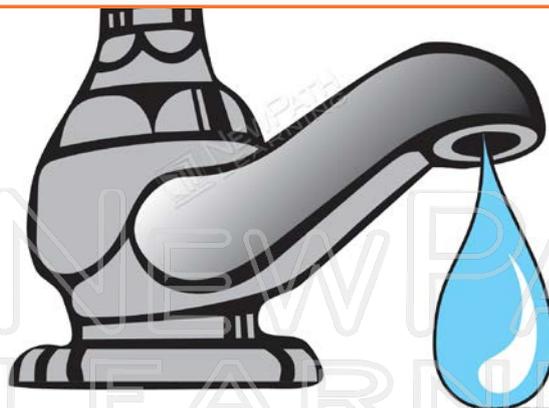
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Lesson Checkpoint: What is one way you can conserve water at home?

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. Landfills are not very clean. They can pollute the ground and water. So it is important to reduce our trash.

There are many ways to reduce our trash. One way is to use a landfill. Another way is to send our trash to a landfill. We can also burn garbage. The burning of garbage is too hot.

We can reduce our trash in the following ways:



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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**.



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