Activity 11

Natural Resources

Key Words: natural resources, agriculture, mining, forestry

What did you have for dinner last night? Where did you sit when you ate? Do you know where your food and furniture come from? It did not just come from the supermarket or furniture store. There's more to the story than that!

Our food and furniture are made from **natural resources**. A natural resource is something we use that comes from nature. For example, forests are natural resources. We cut down trees to make lumber. Lumber is wood that has been cut from trees for people to use. We use lumber to build houses and make furniture.

We use some animals, such as cows and sheep, for food and clothing. These animals are natural resources. Plants like corn and wheat are also natural resources. Growing plants or raising animals is called **agriculture**.

Oil gushing out of the ground

Look around you for something made of metal. You might see a pot made out of aluminum or a penny made of copper. Aluminum and copper are metals. Metals are also natural resources. Most metals come from underneath the ground. Mines are dug to bring metals out of the ground.

Look around the room you are in. How many lights are on? Is the heater or air conditioning on? All of these things use energy. In the United States, most of our energy comes from oil and coal. Oil and coal are both natural resources that come from under the ground.

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You have learned about different kinds of natural resources:

- *animal resources*, such as cattle, chickens, or fish
- *plant resources*, such as trees, corn, or wheat
- *mineral resources*, such as copper or aluminum dug from mines in the ground
- *fossil fuels*, such as coal, oil, or natural gas, which are created over a very long time from the remains of plants and animals

a.

b.

c.

d.

1. Look at the pictures above. Identify the type of natural resources you see in each picture. Are they animal, plant, or mineral resources?

Natural Resources of South America

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Oranges growing in South America

A farmer in South America

Some maps show natural resources. The map on page 48 shows some of the natural resources in South America. Look at the map key to identify the symbols for these resources. Look for these symbols on the map. For example, find the symbol for cacao on the key and then locate that symbol on the map. Cacao is a plant used to make chocolate. It grows in warm places near the equator. Other plants that grow in South America's warm areas are bananas and citrus fruits, such as oranges. The map also shows mining and forestry. **Mining** means taking mineral resources from the ground. **Forestry** means growing and taking care of trees, some of which will be cut down for lumber.

Look at the Natural Resources of South America map on page 48.

2. Name two animal resources in South America.
3. Name three plant resources in South America.
4. Which country is known for its sheep farming, Argentina or Venezuela?
5. Name three countries where coffee is grown.
6. In which country are fish a big resource, Paraguay or Peru?
7. In which country is citrus fruit grown, Brazil or Bolivia?
8. Name three natural resources found in Colombia.
9. Name three natural resources found in Brazil.
10. Name three natural resources found in Chile.

Canada is the United States' neighbor to the north. Canada is divided into thirteen provinces and territories. Provinces and territories in Canada are similar to states in the United States.

Use the map key to find some of Canada's natural resources.

11. Name two animal resources in Canada.

12. Name two plant resources in Canada.

13. Which province has more mining, Ontario or Newfoundland?

14. Which province has more oil, Alberta or Québec?

15. Name two provinces or territories where fruit is grown.

16. Name two provinces or territories where fish are an important resource.

17. Name two provinces or territories where forestry is a big resource.

Will they last forever?

Some natural resources can last a long time if we take care of them. Animals have babies, and many plants grow back each year. If we are careful not to use too many animals, then we will have more. If we take care of the land, we can grow more trees and crops. We can renew animal and plant resources. But mineral resources do not grow. There is nothing we can do to renew them. If we use all of our oil and coal, there will be none left. We will have to get our energy from other sources, like the sun or the wind.

On a wind farm in California, wind turbines capture wind power to be changed into electricity.

Skill Builder

Review

1. Which is a mineral resource, lumber or copper?
2. Which is an example of agriculture, raising chickens or mining for gold?
3. Which resource would you find in South America but not in Canada, coffee or fish?
4. Which resource would you find in South America but not in Canada, lumber or cacao?
5. Which resource can be renewed, lumber or coal?
6. Which resource will run out and cannot be replaced, oil or fish?

Try It Yourself

List at least three natural resources you have used this week. Which type of resource is each: animal, plant, or mineral?