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Stephanie



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Name: _____

Date: _____

● Renewable vs. Nonrenewable Resources Reading Passage

RENEWABLE VS. NONRENEWABLE RESOURCES

Natural resources are things, materials, substances and components found in the natural environment. They exist “naturally” or innately in the world and are not the result of human manipulation or creation. There are two types of natural resources: renewable resources and nonrenewable resources.

Renewable resources can regenerate if they are alive or be replenished by biochemical cycles if they are nonliving. Theoretically, there is an “infinite” amount of these resources. Water, sunlight, plants, animals and wind are examples of renewable resources.

Nonrenewable resources cannot be regenerated or replenished by natural processes. There is a finite amount of nonrenewable resources, so once used up, they are forever gone. Fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas, minerals, metals and fissile material are examples of nonrenewable energy.

Fossil fuels are resources created from the remains of once living organisms that lived hundreds of millions of years ago. Technically, fossil fuels are continually being made but the process is extremely slow and we use fossil fuels much faster than they are created. For this reason, we classify fossil fuels as a nonrenewable resource.

Renewable resources can become nonrenewable resources if they are used faster than they can be replenished. If the resource no longer exists, there is nothing to regenerate or be replenished. For example, if we cut down trees faster than we grow them, trees can become a nonrenewable resource because there are no trees to regenerate.

Questions

1. What are natural resources?
2. What is the difference between a renewable and nonrenewable resource?
3. If fossil fuels are continually being made, why are they considered nonrenewable?
4. How can a renewable resource become a nonrenewable resource?
5. Do you think any renewable resource we use today is in danger of becoming a nonrenewable resource? Justify your answer.

Name: _____

Date: _____

● Renewable vs. Nonrenewable Resources Answer Sheet

Questions

1. What are natural resources?

2. What is the difference between a renewable and nonrenewable resource?

3. If fossil fuels are continually being made, why are they considered nonrenewable?

4. How can a renewable resource become a nonrenewable resource?

5. Do you think any renewable resource we use today is in danger of becoming a nonrenewable resource? Justify your answer.

Name: _____

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● Renewable vs. Nonrenewable Resources Answer Sheet

ANSWER KEY

Questions

1. What are natural resources?

Natural resources are things, materials, substances and components found in the natural environment. They exist “naturally” or innately in the world and are not the result of human manipulation or creation.

2. What is the difference between a renewable and nonrenewable resource?

Renewable resources can regenerate or be replenished by natural processes. Theoretically, there is an “infinite” amount of these resources. Nonrenewable resources cannot be regenerated or replenished by natural processes. There is a finite amount of nonrenewable resources, so once used up, they are forever gone.

3. If fossil fuels are continually being made, why are they considered nonrenewable?

Technically, fossil fuels are continually being made but the process is extremely slow and we use fossil fuels MUCH faster than they are created. For this reason, we classify fossil fuels as nonrenewable resources.

4. How can a renewable resource become a nonrenewable resource?

Renewable resources can become nonrenewable resources if they are used up faster than they can be replenished. If the resource no longer exists, there is nothing to regenerate or be replenished.

5. Do you think any renewable resource we use today is in danger of becoming a nonrenewable resource? Justify your answer.

Answers will vary. Grade students' responses based on the thoughtfulness of their answer.