



Nature | Education

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GRAB N' GO ACTIVITY:
Renewable or Not

OVERVIEW:

In this activity you will help children discover which resources are renewable and nonrenewable, what these terms mean and why sustainable use of natural resources is vitally important.

MATERIALS:

- Worksheet
- Pencil

INFORMATION:

Children often do not know which resources are renewable and nonrenewable. In this activity you will help them discover what these terms mean and why sustainable use of natural resources is vitally important.

For the sake of this activity:

Renewable resources are naturally occurring raw materials - or forms of energy - which can be replenished through ecological cycles and/ or sustainable management practices. Examples include the sun, wind, falling water, and trees.

Nonrenewable resources are those raw materials supplied by the Earth and its processes that exist infinite, or limited, amounts. Once used, they cannot be replaced. Examples include oil, gas, and coal.

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SOURCED & ADAPTED FROM: <http://www.forestfoundation.org/nature-activity-renewable-or-not-v>

Ages: 5 - 12

Time: 30 - 45 minutes

PROCEDURE:

Step 1: First, have your children invent their own definitions for renewable and nonrenewable resources.

Step 2: Then as a group try to categorize these resources as either renewable (R) or nonrenewable (nr):

- Corn _____
- Oil _____
- Coal _____
- Sunshine _____
- Tides _____
- Trees _____
- Tuna _____
- Gold _____
- Geothermal/Hot springs _____
- Sand _____
- Wind _____
- Water _____

Step 3: To apply this judgement, go for a walk around the neighborhood or just in your own backyard. Make a second list of all the renewable and non renewable resources you can identify.

Step 4: Back inside, compare your two lists, then consider the following questions:

1. What renewable resources could be used to replace nonrenewable ones?
2. What advantages and disadvantages might there be for using renewable resources in place of nonrenewable ones?
3. Under what circumstances, if any, would a renewable resource not be renewable?



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RENEWABLE OR NOT?

Indicate on the list below whether the object/item is renewable (R) or nonrenewable (NR). Give a short reason why you think it is (R) or (NR).

1. Alcohols derived from corn, sugarcane and grass

2. Oils from plants and seeds

3. Naturally occurring methane gases

4. Bioenergy from biomasses, such as landfills or animal waste used to produce energy

5. Thermal energy conversion

6. Water

7. Oxygen

8. Fruits and vegetables

9. Meats from animals

10. Leather

11. Timber

12. Paper

13. Chemicals

14. Ground Water

15. Solar Energy

16. Wind Power

17. Tides

18. Hydroelectricity

19. Geothermal Power

