

Grade: 1

Subject: Science

Objective: Students will differentiate between natural resources and man-made items and describe how families use natural resources.

Materials: 3x5 index cards; drawing paper, writing utensils

Background: Natural resources are the raw materials supplied by nature. Everything produced, used and thrown away originates from natural resources. People cannot create natural resources. Even though we use natural resources in our daily activities, we often do not even think of them as being resources. Use the following list for ideas for this activity.

Natural Resources Activity Products

Air: fly kites, sail, balloons, tires, soccer balls

Water: fish, swim, ski, soft drinks, swimming pools, electricity

Soil: dig for worms, sand boxes, glass, grow a garden

Plants: climb trees, play on the grass, eat apples, bread, strawberries, peanut butter. Also used to make paper, clothes (cotton), furniture (wood)

Animals: playing with a pet, going fishing. Also used for food such as; hamburgers, cheese, milk, fish eggs, bacon, shoes (leather), wool sweaters

Fossil fuels: watching TV, plastic toys, gasoline, using computer, games, heating our homes, electricity, (natural gas) riding in a car or plane

Minerals: climb on rocks, bikes, cars, play at a play-ground, swing sets, desks

Procedure: Label each one of the seven index cards with the name of a natural resource. Picture yourself standing in your backyard or in your favorite park. What do you see? Get plenty of responses. Everything that you have named is either a natural resource or is made from natural resources. Natural resources are all the things in nature which we use to live. List the seven natural resources on the board and show students the 3x5 cards with the name of one natural resource on each. Let each student choose a card (without looking) and give an example of how the student enjoys that resource or has a product made from that resource. Discuss how the product, like writing paper, is different from its source--a tree.

Reflection/Response: Have each student make a drawing or poster of his/her family enjoying natural resources. Don't forget to include products made from natural resources! Can you think of anything that is not provided by the earth? Have students complete the worksheet, "How Families Use Natural Resources In Their Lives." Ask students to describe what would happen if we used or polluted all or most of our natural resources like trees, oil, or rivers. Make a list on the board of suggestions for conserving

natural resources such as: • not wasting products -- don't take more napkins, towels or condiment packets than you need • using both sides of writing paper • finding ways to reuse things: like glass jars, plastic tubs or bottles • collecting unwanted items at the end of the school year that are still useable and redistributing them the next school year • recycling as much as you can

Student Examples:



