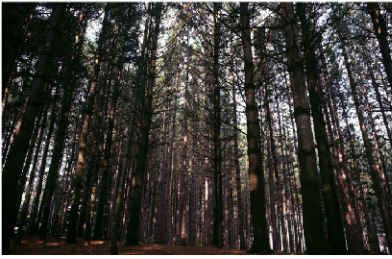


Natural Resources



A natural resource is any material that can be used to satisfy a need that is found on Earth. There are many natural resources that you use every day.



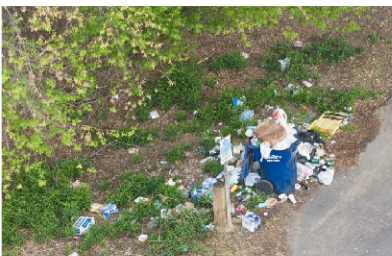
A renewable resource is one that can be replaced within a human life time. An example is energy we get from the sun, harnessed through these solar panels. Non-renewable resources, like fossil fuels, cannot be replaced easily.



Some examples of renewable resources are air, water, sunlight, crops, and animals raised for food.



Some examples of nonrenewable resources are fossil fuels such as oil, natural gas, coal and uranium. Metals like these iron ingots are non-renewable resources.



Pollution is any change in the environment that can harm living organisms. Pollution can lead to the destruction of natural resources. Sometimes pollution occurs naturally, but often it is humans cause pollution.



Air pollution is mostly caused by burning fossil fuels. Chemicals released into the air mix with water to form acids. The acids fall to the ground as acid rain that can kill animals and damage trees, as shown in this picture. It can also destroy other plants and buildings, and can cause health problems.



Wastes are dumped into bodies of water from factories and mines, fertilizers, pesticides, and sewage. The pollution gets into the groundwater and can cause various health hazards. This beach is closed due to contamination.



Another type of pollution is land pollution and misuse of land. Poor farming practices can destroy soil and the surrounding environment. Cutting all the trees in this area of the forest caused soil erosion in Rockport, Washington.



All types of pollution affect humans because ultimately the effects are passed onto us. Whether it is contaminated drinking water, smoggy cities, or depletion of important natural resources, it's important that we do our best to preserve our Earth.