ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

- Introduction
- Ecosystems
- Environmental Pollution
- Social Issues and the Environment
- Human Population and the Environment

Multidisciplinary nature of environmental Studies

The components of environmental studies include biology, geology, chemistry, physics, engineering, sociology, health, anthropology, economics, statistics, computers and philosophy.

The scope of environmental studies is extremely wide and covers some aspects of nearly every major discipline.

Earth’s spheres that provide the resources to humans

- The atmosphere (Oxygen)
- Hydrosphere (Water)
- Lithosphere (Soil, Stone, sand and gravel, minerals, oil, coal and gas, power)
- Biosphere (food, timber, biomass fuelwood)

Natural Resources

The environment provides a variety of goods and services necessary for our day-to- day life.

Types of Natural Resources:

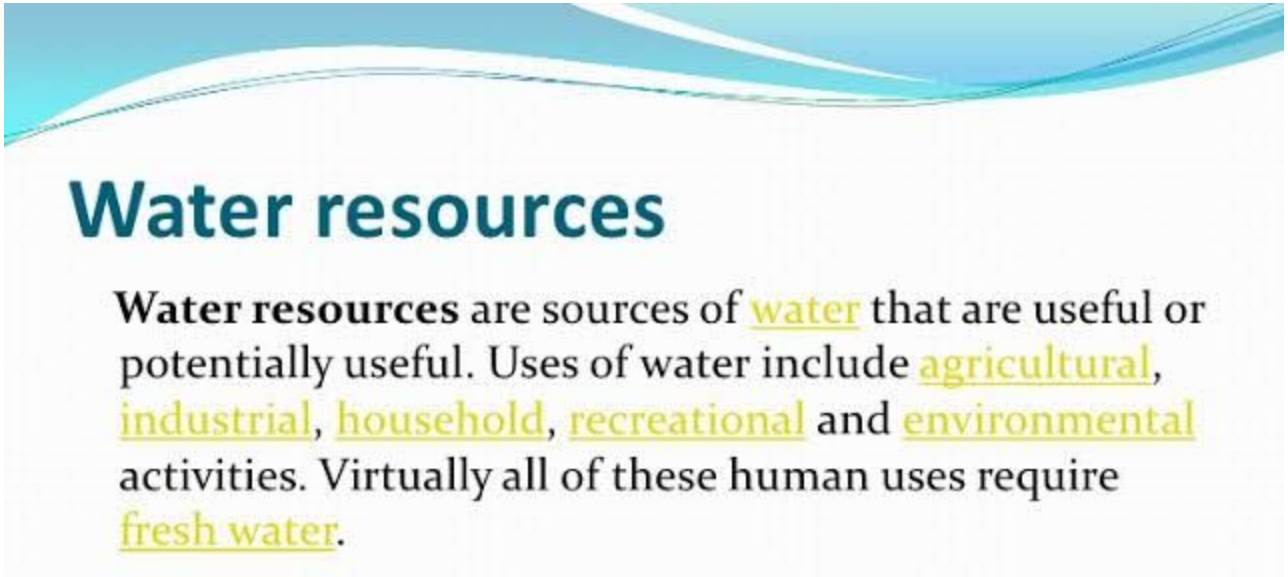
- Renewable (vegetation, water, air, animals, sun, water and wind) and Non-renewable Natural Resources (fossil fuels, minerals)
- Biotic (animals, forests (vegetation) Fossil fuels such as petroleum, oil, and coal are also included in this grouping because they are generated from decayed organic matter), and Abiotic Natural Resources (water, land, air and heavy metals like iron, copper, silver, gold)

Forest resources

- Wood (timber)
- Plants
- Gum
- Fuel wood

Water resources

groundwater, rivers, lakes and reservoirs



Mineral Resources

Examples:


Iron


Copper


Gold

CLASSES OF MINERALS

METALS	NON METALS	FUELS
• Copper • Nickel • Gold • Silver • Iron	• Sand • Gravel • Clay • Limestone • Salt	• Oil • Gas • Coal

Food Resources

The 3 major sources of food for humans are: - the croplands (agriculture), the rangelands (animal husbandry) and fisheries.

The croplands provide the bulk amount of food for human. Yet though there are 1000s of edible plants in the Earth, solely 4 essential crops (potatoes, rice, wheat and corn) account for many of the caloric consumption of human beings. Few animals are raised for milk, meat and eggs (for example. poultry, cattle and pigs) are as well the croplands are fed grain.

The rangelands provide a different source of milk and meat from animals grazing (for example: goats, cattle and sheep).

Food Resources

The fisheries provide fish which are a major source of animal protein in the Earth, particularly in coastal areas and Asia. As people become more affluent, they incline to consume more cheese, milk, meat and eggs.

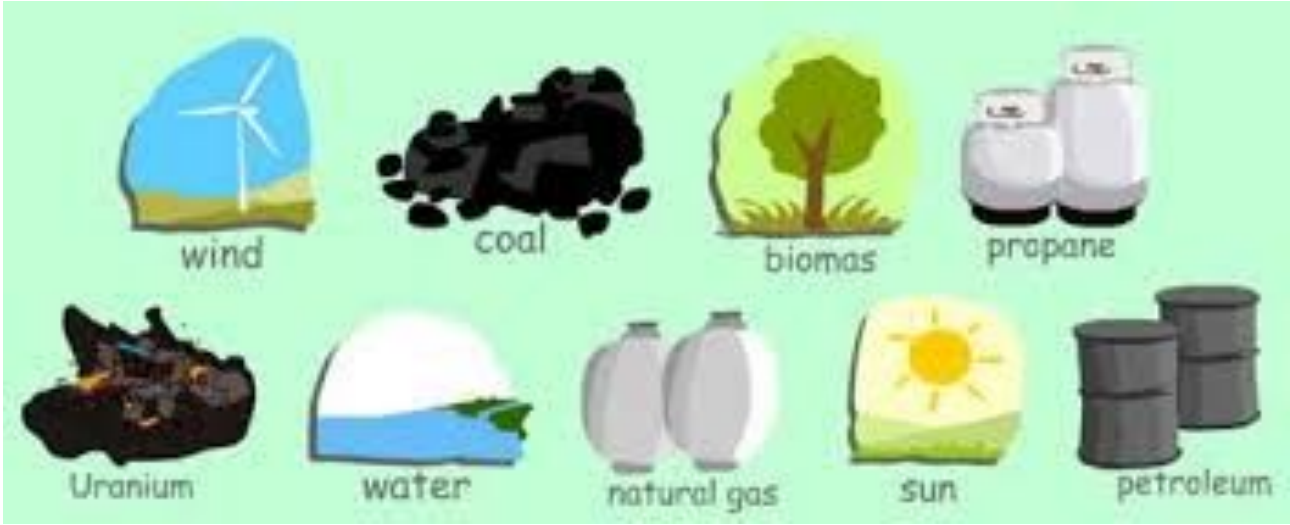
Energy resources

Primary energy sources take many forms, including nuclear energy, fossil energy -- like oil, coal and natural gas -- and renewable sources like wind, solar, geothermal and hydropower. These primary sources are converted to electricity, a secondary energy source, which flows through power lines and other transmission infrastructure to your home and business.

Types of Energy

- Non-renewable: Coal, oil and natural gas (hydrocarbon fuels)
- Renewable: hydropower, solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, biogas
- Nuclear Energy

Energy resources



Land Resources