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NATURAL RESOURCES

CATEGORY

- Renewable natural resources because they can easily be replaced e.g. water, air, trees and vegetation.
- Nonrenewable natural resources because they cannot easily be replaced. E.g. rocks and minerals, fossil fuels

COMPOSITION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Natural resource	composition
Trees and vegetation	Elements like C, H, O, Mg
Rocks.	Calcium carbonate and minerals like Fe, Cu, Gypsum, Al
Fossil fuels	Elements Carbon, hydrogen, Sulphur, oxygen
Carbon based fuels	Element Carbon.
Water	A compound of hydrogen and oxygen
Air	A mixture of gases like Oxygen, nitrogen, CO ₂ and rare gases.

Impact of human activities on natural resources, how the impact occurs and mitigation

- when trees and other vegetation are cut down, **water cycle is disrupted** hence **little rainfall received**, this can be mitigated by **planting trees** that grow and mature faster.
- when trees and other vegetation are cut down, **carbon dioxide accumulates** in the atmosphere which **leads to global temperature rise hence reduced rainfall** formation or **swamps are drained/reclaimed**.
- when trees and other vegetation are cut down, **carbon dioxide accumulates** in the atmosphere which **hence swamps are drained/reclaimed**. This can be mitigated by enforcing strict laws.
- during stone quarrying, **quarry residues are washed away by erosion** to streams and rivers hence **water contamination** and this

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can be mitigated by **using strict laws** on proper disposal of the residues.

- **dust particles and toxic gases** generated from the quarrying process **pollutes the air** and may cause **respiratory disorders**. This can be mitigated by **enforcing of strict laws** and treating toxic gases before release.
- During stone quarrying, **water cycle is disrupted** through lowering the water table hence drying up of neighbouring wells. This can be mitigated by using strict laws.
- **Stone quarrying** leads to **land reclamation** in quarry areas through the **holes dug and these can act as breeding centres for mosquitoes**. It can be mitigated by **land refilling**.
- **Crop husbandry**; fertilizers and manures are used which pollutes water bodies and make them unsafe for use. This can be mitigated by sensitizing farmers to use controlled doses of fertilizers and manure in gardens.
- Mills release **toxic wastes** and other wastes like plastics which are thrown into landfills. These reduce soil productivity hence some crops die/dry out. This can be mitigated by enforcing strict laws

Benefits of natural resources + Explanation

- Air is used for **respiration**; food is broken down to **release energy** for proper body functioning.
- Air facilitates **photosynthesis**; carbon dioxide from air combines with water in presence of sunlight to make **glucose and oxygen**.
- Water bodies provide water for **irrigation** that cools crops and makes them to grow healthy and hence **boost food production**.

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- Water bodies provide water for drinking; this helps to cool our bodies and helps to dissolve the food we eat.
- Generates hydroelectric power; fast moving water runs turbines that converts mechanical energy to electrical energy.
- Trees from forests are used as fuel; since they are burn to release heat energy which can be used for cooking.
- Trees provide us with oxygen for **respiration**; during photosynthesis, oxygen is released as a **bi-product** and can be used for respiration.
- Rocks are used for **construction**; aggregates are mixed with cement and sand to make **concrete** used for construction.

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