

Our Natural Resources

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Our Natural Resources

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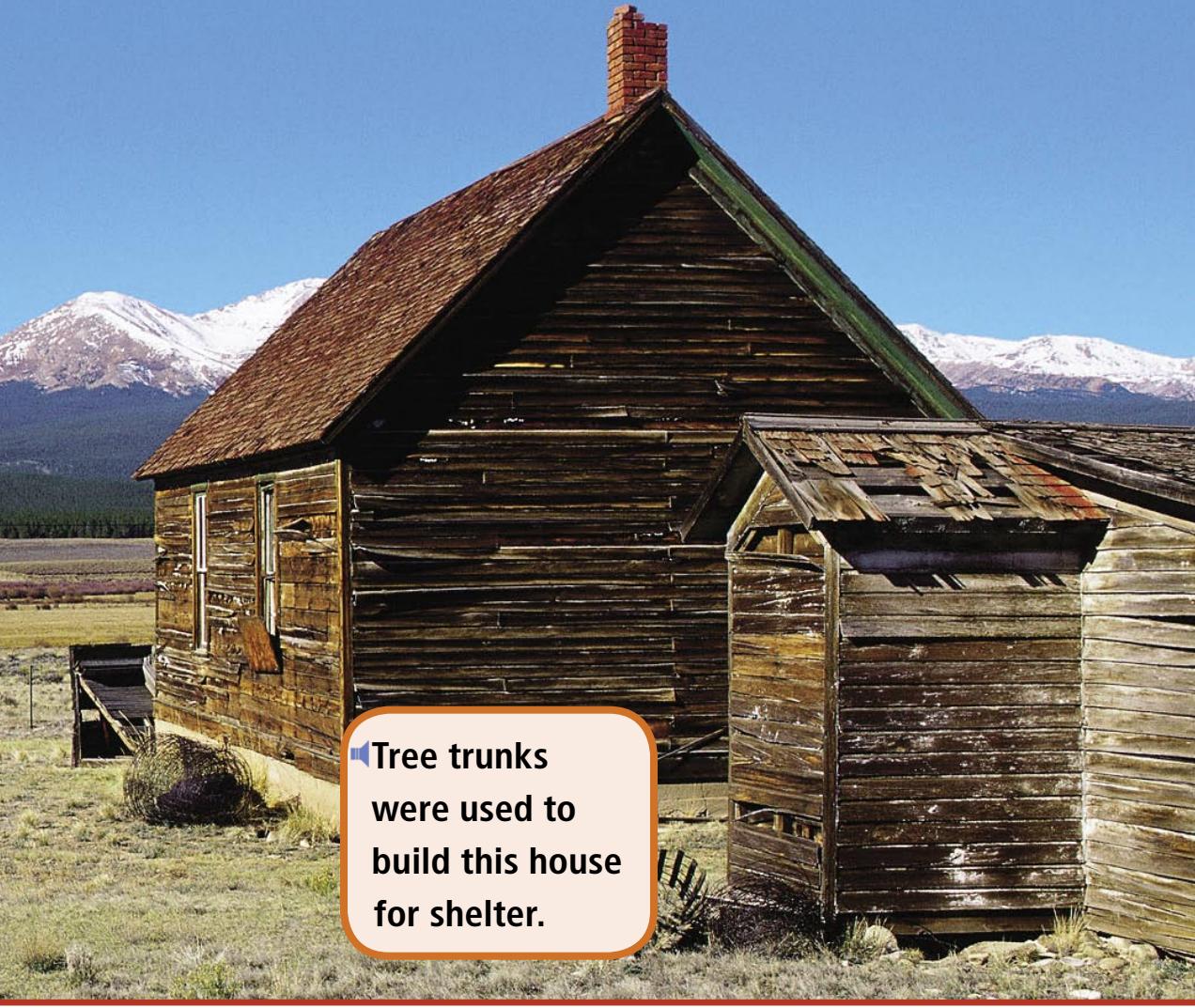
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Things You Need

► What do you need every day? Food, water, and shelter are all things you need. You also need air to breathe and heat to stay warm. You meet these needs by using things in the world around you. A **resource** is anything that people can use to meet their needs.



► This wheat will be used to make flour, cereal, and other foods you eat.



Tree trunks
were used to
build this house
for shelter.

A **natural resource** is a resource that comes from nature. For example, wood comes from trees. It is used to build houses. Wind is a natural resource. It provides energy for windmills.



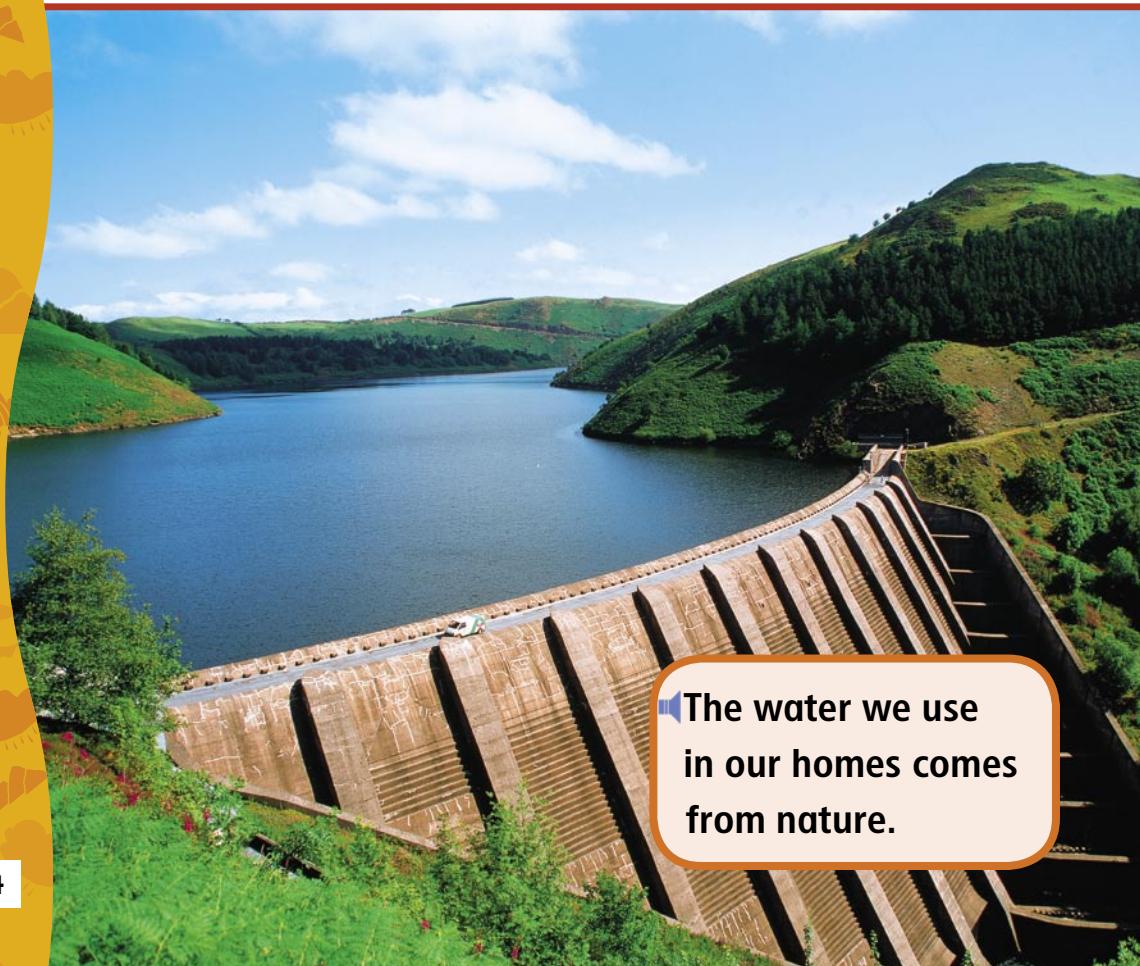
MAIN IDEA AND DETAILS List two needs you have and resources you use to meet them.

Finding Natural Resources

Natural resources are all around you. The air you breathe is a natural resource. The water you drink is a natural resource. How else do you use water? You take baths and wash clothes. You cook some foods with water, too.

Fast Fact

Small plants that died long ago formed the oil we use today.



The water we use in our homes comes from nature.



People need wood for houses and furniture. Cutting down trees for wood is called logging.

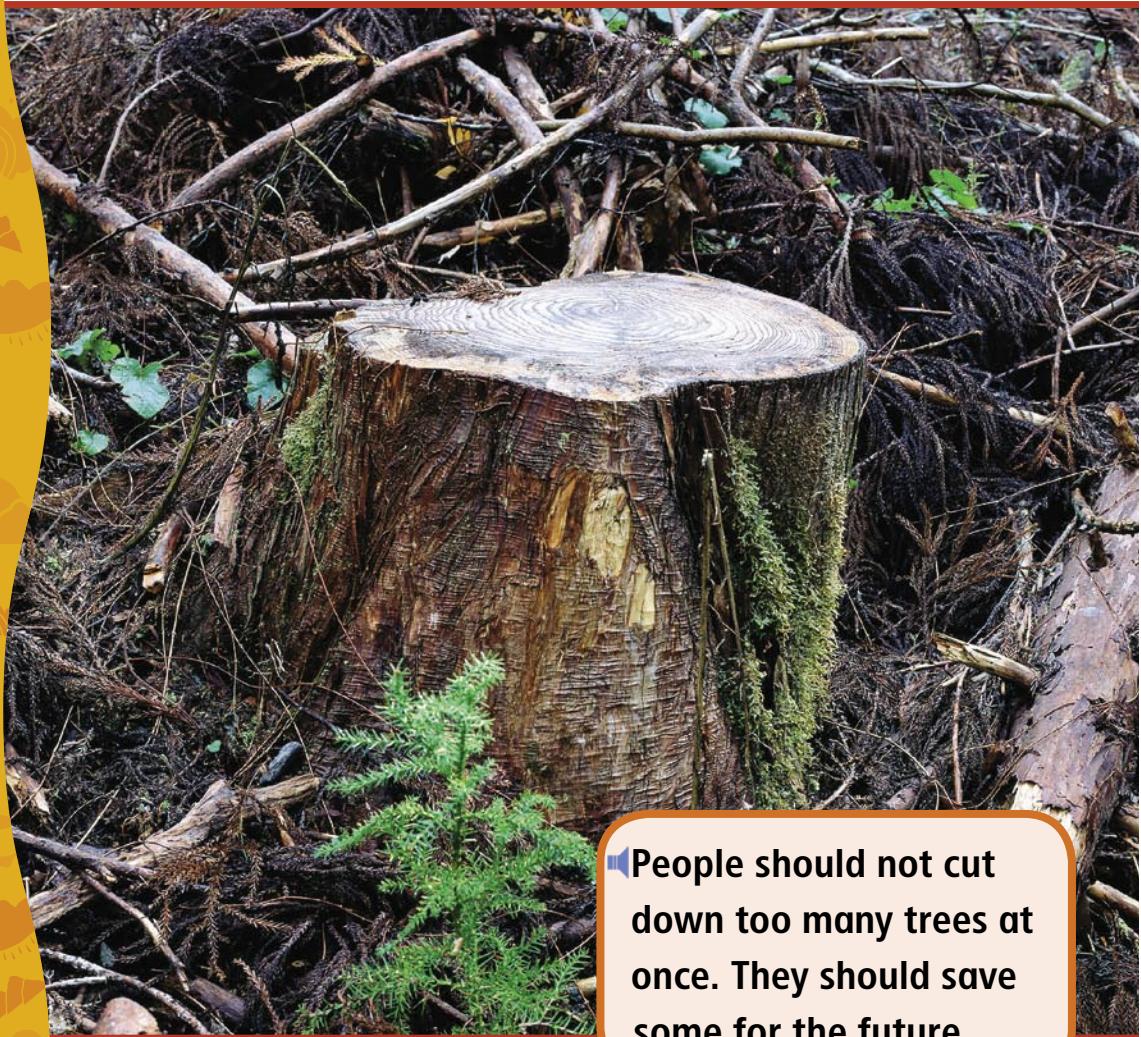
Some fuels we use are natural resources. Wood can be used in fires for heat and light. Oil is another natural fuel. It is used for heat. Oil is used in machines and motors. Oil comes from deep inside Earth.



MAIN IDEA AND DETAILS Where can you find natural resources?

Using Natural Resources

► People should not waste natural resources. For example, people might cut down too many trees for wood. It can take a long time for more trees to grow back. That is bad for people and for animals.



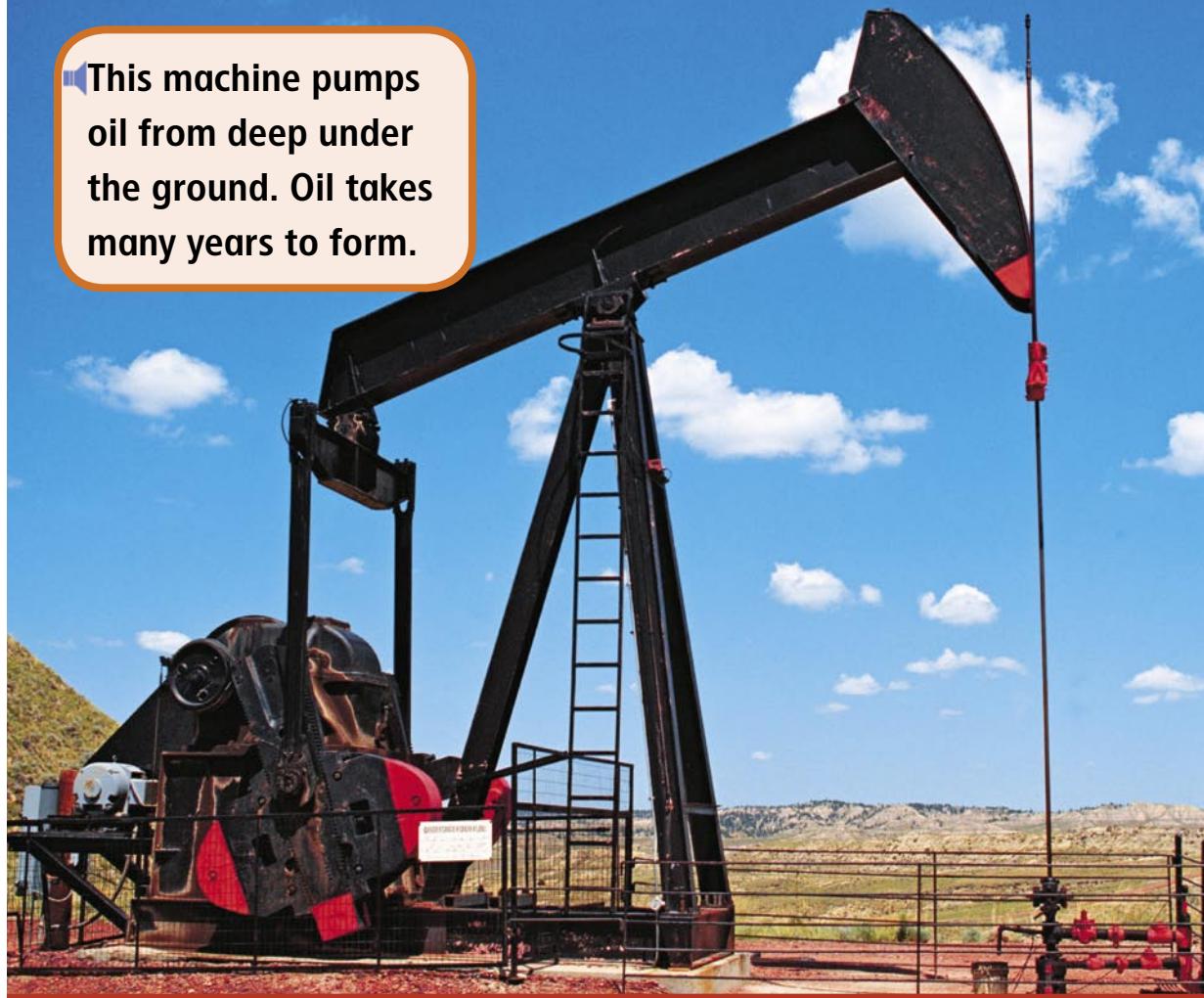
► People should not cut down too many trees at once. They should save some for the future.

► Many natural resources take a long time to replace. You know trees take a long time to grow. Oil takes millions of years to form.



CAUSE AND EFFECT What effect is caused by using too much of a natural resource?

► This machine pumps oil from deep under the ground. Oil takes many years to form.



Harming Resources

► People can harm the things around them in many ways. One way people harm natural resources is with waste. Waste that harms air, water, or land is called **pollution**.

► Burning fuels produces smoke and ash. Smoke and ash cause air pollution. If the air gets too polluted, people and animals can get sick.



► Smoke from a factory goes into the air. It can harm plants and animals.

Oil and trash are sometimes dumped into rivers and oceans. Oil and trash harm the water. We cannot drink water that is polluted. Water pollution hurts the animals and plants that live in the water.

Fast Fact

Water striders are small insects that walk on water. If the water is polluted, water striders sink.



CAUSE AND EFFECT How can pollution hurt plants and animals?

Oil spills pollute water. The oil can hurt the plants and animals that live there.



Saving Resources

- People, plants, and animals need natural resources. Be careful about how you use them. Save what you can! Only use what you need. Do not litter.
- People **recycle** by using the materials in old things to make new things. Be sure to recycle things made of glass, plastic, metal, and paper.



► Recycle what you can.
Do not just dump your trash. Protect our natural resources!



Places like this take out the pollution from water.

Summary

People need the natural resources from the world around them. Wood, oil, water, and air are examples of natural resources. We cannot meet our needs without natural resources. Many resources are hard to come by. We must use them carefully. We should be careful how we get rid of waste.



MAIN IDEA AND DETAILS What are some ways to use resources carefully?

Glossary

-  **natural resource** Anything in nature that people can use to meet their needs (3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11)
-  **pollution** Waste that harms the air, water, or land (8, 9, 11)
-  **recycle** To use the materials in old things to make new things (10)
-  **resource** Anything that people can use to meet their needs (2, 3, 7, 10, 11)

Think and Write

-  **1.** What is a natural resource?
-  **2. MAIN IDEA AND DETAILS** What are some ways we use resources?
-  **3. CAUSE AND EFFECT** What are some causes of pollution?
-  **4.** Choose one natural resource that you use every day. Write about how your life would change if that resource were used up.

Hands-On Activity

Fill a large bowl with water and cooking oil. How can you remove the oil from the water?

School-Home Connection

With your teacher or an adult family member, find out how your town deals with waste. How does it deal with trash, recycling, or water pollution?