

NATURALLY YOURS

An Appreciation of the Earth and All It Provides

Most people live each day without thinking about the role natural resources plays in their lives. They know where to buy the things they want, but they seldom consider the origins of these items. They think food comes from a grocery store, electricity comes from a wall socket, clothes from a store, cars from a dealer, appliances from a department store... and so on. If we do think about how these things are

created, many of us probably imagine farms, factories and power stations. But without minerals and mining, we could not till our soil, build our machines, heat and cool our homes, transport our goods or maintain our society beyond the most primitive level.

Everything comes from something, and that something is our natural resources.

A Study of the Earth



"The vast loneliness we see up here is awe-inspiring, and it makes you realize just what you have back there on Earth. The Earth from here (the Apollo-8 spacecraft) is a grand oasis in the big vastness of space."

Astronaut James A. Lovell, Jr.

Exploring the Earth

Classroom Experience

- Using a globe, have the students identify which parts are solid, liquid, and gas.
- Have the students discuss where on Earth they are and where they have been on vacation.
- Demonstrate how day and night work by turning off the lights and using light from a window to illuminate the globe.
- More than 70% of the surface of the Earth is covered with water. Describe how snow and rain get to the rivers and eventually the ocean, and back again to land.

Elements Comprising the Earth's Crust

Oxygen	46.6%
Silicon	27.7%
Aluminum	8.1%
Iron	5.0%
Calcium	3.6%
Sodium	2.8%
Potassium	2.6%
Magnesium	2.1%
All Other	1.5%



Dig A Little Deeper

The demand for more resources comes with every breath you take. Try to find out how many minerals you use every day.

Is it possible for the Earth to run out of natural resources? Is it probable?

Why do we have more of some resources today than in the past?

AT HOME Discuss with families what would life be like if we didn't use natural resources. Discuss why we need to treat the Earth with respect and use our natural resources wisely.

If You Can See It, Touch It, Taste It,
Smell It, Or Hear It,

It's A Natural Resource

Visualization

If visualization is difficult for the students, try this:

Show a photograph of you or one of your students. Show a photograph of the entrance to your school that students are familiar with, stating that you (students) are inside the building. Show aerial photo of school (use Google Earth or MapQuest, satellite view), stating that this is how the school looks from up in the sky. Then show photo or sketch of Earth in Space, pointing out where your school (town) is located.