

NATURAL RESOURCES MATTER

Objective: To develop the concept that everything is made from a natural resource.

A Few Facts

Everything is either plant, animal or mineral. There is no exception. Each natural resource can be classified according to its state of matter – solid, liquid or gas. Each can also be divided into organic and inorganic matter.

Organic matter is (or once was) alive; it can live and die. Matter that can be *derived* from something that was alive is also organic, such as coal and some types of limestone. If something contains carbon, it is organic.

Inorganic matter, such as rocks, water and air, are not alive.

- Organic matter needs inorganic matter to live.
- Inorganics can exist without organics.

All jobs are related to natural resources – some more directly than others. All jobs are involved in upgrading (manufacturing) or using (service industry) natural resources. Only a few jobs are involved in actually developing the natural resources upon which everything else is dependent. They are:

Farmers, ranchers and fishermen: work to make the food we need from organic natural resources.

Timber workers: work in the forest to help us use the wood from the trees.

Miners and oil field workers: produce mineral resources from the ground to help us make things such as steel, glass, concrete, oil, plastics, electricity, etc.

Everything Is Made of Something

Everything the earth is made of is called a **natural resource**. The land, the ocean, and the air in our **atmosphere** are natural resources. All the plants and animals are natural resources. People are natural resources.

Some natural resources are not alive. They come from rocks, water, and air. These natural resources are called **inorganic**.

Natural resources can be a solid, a liquid, or a gas.

Some of our natural resources are alive, like plants and animals. They are called **organic**. Something is organic if it was once alive.

Almost all of the food we eat is organic, because it came from things that were alive.

Minerals occur all over the world. When there is a hole of a special mineral in one place, the mineral is called **ore**.

Inorganic natural resources have many special uses. Metals that have special uses are called **metals**.

Can you think of something that is not made from our natural resources? Facts about natural resources are hidden in this word search. Can you find them? Your teacher has a list, if you need help.

The darker words on this page are hidden in this word search. Can you find them?

I	N	W	A	T	E	R	Y	U	I
N	A	T	U	R	A	L	H	L	R
O	R	E	S	O	U	R	C	E	O
R	W	X	I	D	O	O	F	K	C
G	F	O	F	G	U	F	S	K	K
A	J	R	G	A	S	D	O	A	S
N	H	E	R	I	H	L	I	D	
J	J	G	H	U	W	Q	I	R	A
C	K	J	Q	G	O	L	D	O	P
D	W	I	E	R	T	Y	Y	U	O
S	L	W	H	D	Y	O	O	W	
A	T	N	O	S	P	H	E	R	E
O	M	I	N	E	R	A	L	S	W

Student Page

Read More About It!

Check out these books for your class:



- *Around the World in Eighty Days* by Jules Verne (many editions available)
- *The Magic Schoolbus Inside the Earth*, by Joanna Cole; Scholastic
- *From Seed to Plant* by Gail Gibbons; Holiday House

Video Deal *Rock Odyssey*, 30 minutes.

Possibly the best introduction to rocks and minerals for grades 2-6. Check www.mii.org to see how to purchase one.

Teachers are developing one of our greatest natural resources:

Our Children

Classroom Experience

In order to better understand the composition of the things around us:

Title a piece of paper "Natural Resources." Rule the paper into three wide columns, and label each column with one state of matter (solid, liquid, or gas).

Divide each column vertically again with a dotted line. Label the columns "organic" and "inorganic" or "grown" and "mined." Brainstorm with the students to list items to insert into the chart under the correct classification. Include everything in sight and even those things out of sight, such as air.

Absolutely everything that's mentioned can be categorized into at least one of these groups, with many fitting both groups.



Dig A Little Deeper

Is there anything that isn't made from a natural resource? Have groups of students challenge one another to research something that doesn't come from natural resources. (They won't find anything.)

Integrating the Curriculum

1. Explore the various ways to measure the three states of matter.
2. Prepare a list of rock formations that have become geographic symbols of countries or specific parts of countries, such as Gibraltar, Mt. Rushmore, etc.
3. "Colorado Home" was written by gold prospectors during the winter of 1884. Was it the original "Home on the Range"? Check the words (on page 13), the tune and the dates.