## Connecting Kids to Nature

Engage children in learning about the environment and the world around them with this hands-on activity from Project Learning Tree® - it's fun and educational!

## Renewable or Not?

Children often do not know which resources are **renewable** and **nonrenewable**. Use this activity to learn what these terms mean and discover why sustainable use of natural resources is so important.

Natural resources are the raw materials used for housing, clothing, transporting, heating, cooking, and so on. They include the air we breathe, the

water we drink, the land we farm, and the space we use for living and recreation.
We can organize them into two categories: renewable and nonrenewable resources.

Renewable resources are naturally occurring raw materials - or forms of energy - which can be replenished through ecological cycles and/or sustainable management practices. Examples include the sun, wind, falling water, and trees.





Renewable

Nonrenewable resources are those raw materials supplied by the Earth and its processes that exist in finite, or limited, amounts. Once used, they cannot be replaced. Examples include oil, gas, and coal.

Review the vocabulary terms above by first having children try to come up with their own definitions. Then together, try to categorize the resources below as either renewable (R) or nonrenewable (N):

To apply this knowledge, go for a short walk outside; consider a walk around the neighborhood or even a visit to your own backyard. List as many items as you can that are made from renewable natural resources. Make a separate list of all the items made from nonrenewable natural resources. Use the chart in the sidebar to record your findings.

 Corn \_\_\_\_\_\_
 Tides \_\_\_\_\_
 Geothermal/Hot springs \_\_\_\_

 Oil \_\_\_\_\_
 Trees \_\_\_\_\_
 Sand \_\_\_\_\_

 Coal \_\_\_\_\_
 Tuna \_\_\_\_\_\_
 Wind \_\_\_\_\_

 Sunshine \_\_\_\_\_
 Gold \_\_\_\_\_\_
 Water \_\_\_\_\_

Looking at your 2 lists, answer the following:

- What renewable resources could be used to replace nonrenewable ones?
- What advantages and disadvantages might there be for using renewable resources in place of nonrenewable ones?
- Under what circumstances, if any, would a renewable resource not be renewable?

Answers: Renewables: corn, banswers: Renewables; tides, tides, tides, tides, tides, tides, wind, water (Although these resources are considered renewable, some can be regionally depleted by non-training the practices.) Monrenewables:

Nonrenewable



Project Learning Tree® (PLT) is an initiative of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

Encourage Your Child's School to Incorporate Environmental Education For more activity ideas and materials:

- Attend a PLT workshop, www.plt.org/state-network/
- · Visit shop.plt.org

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