

Renewable vs Nonrenewable Resources

Renewable resources are either naturally produced at a sustainable rate or they can be produced in agriculture at a rate equivalent to the demand or need. For example, corn can be used for ethanol fuel, and a new crop of corn can be grown and harvested each year. Corn is a renewable resource.

Nonrenewable resources are made naturally by the Earth but do not renew themselves fast enough for people to count on having the resource for an indefinite period of time. Some resources are considered nonrenewable because access to the resource is limited. For example, glass and metal are nonrenewable resources. The elements and minerals used to make glass and metal are found in the structure of the Earth's crust, but we are limited to what we can access through mining.

Materials

[AgToday Issue 3: Our Invaluable Natural Resources](#)
[Renewable vs Nonrenewable Resources PowerPoint](#)

Vocabulary

nonrenewable resources: limited natural resources that cannot be replaced or reproduced within a generation and cannot be managed for renewal. Examples: oil, soil, mineral resources (lead, iron, cobalt, zinc, etc.)

renewable resources: natural resources that can be replaced naturally or by human efforts at a sustainable rate. Example: forests, fish, wildlife, agriculture, plants, animals

Activity

1. Read [AgToday Issue 3: Our Invaluable Natural Resources](#).
2. Use the [Renewable vs Nonrenewable Resources PowerPoint](#) to determine if each resource shown is renewable or nonrenewable. How did you do?
3. Renewable resources are often grown or produced by farmers in a relatively short amount of time. Nonrenewable resources are produced naturally by or in the Earth.