What is a resource?

A resource is anything that has some utility to satisfy our needs.

Types of Resources

There are 2 main types of resources; renewable and non-renewable

A renewable resource is one that can be used repeatedly and does not run out because it is naturally replaced, example the sun, wind and water. Still some resources, unlike the sun, wind, or water, are considered renewable even though some time or effort must go into their renewal, example trees. Most precious metals are renewable also. Although precious metals are not naturally replaced, they can be recycled because they are not destroyed during their extraction and use.

A non-renewable resource is a natural resource that cannot be replaced quickly enough to keep up with how fast it is being used. Examples are crude oil, natural gas and minerals such as gold, silver, and iron.

Resources are also classified as natural, from nature or man-made, from man.

Any natural substance that humans use to meet their needs is a natural resource. Example oil, coal, natural gas, metals, stone, sand are natural resources. Also, air, sunlight, soil and water.

When humans use natural things to make something new that is useful and adds value to our lives, it is called human-made resources. For instance, when we use metals, wood, cement, sand, and solar energy to make buildings, machinery, vehicles, bridges, roads, etc. they become man-made resources.

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So, there are natural resources that are renewable, example the sun, wind and water while there are natural resources that are non-renewable, example crude oil and naturel gas. All man-made resources are non-renewable since they do not renew themselves but must be made by man.

Some Caribbean islands and their resources.

ISLAND	RESOURCE
Jamaica	Bauxite or Aluminum, Processed fruits and nuts
St. Lucia	Forests, Beaches, Mineral springs, Bananas
St. Vincent	Arrowroot, Packaged flour and rice, Bananas
Grenada	Nutmeg, Spices, Timber, Tropical fruit
Dominica	Tropical scenery, Fish, Water
Barbados	Minerals such as clay, limestone and shale
Martinique	Coastal scenery, Beaches, Bananas

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EXERCISE

Draw a line to match the word with its correct definition.

1. Natural Resource	A resource that can be used repeatedly and does not run out.
2. Man-made Resource	A natural substance that humans use to meet their needs.
3. Renewable Resource	A resource that cannot be replaced quickly enough.
4. Non-renewable Resource	A product that is made to be useful and add value to our lives.

Select whether the resource is renewable / non-renewable and natural/man-made.

Water	Gold
Crude Oil	Forests
Laptop	Money

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