Natural Resources

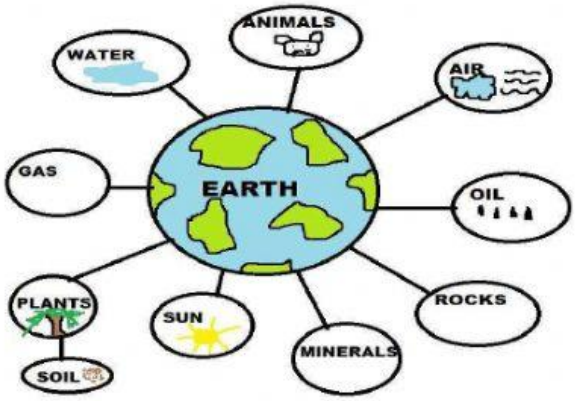
A **natural resource** is something found in nature that people can use to meet their needs. Natural resources include **air, water, soil, plants, animals, rocks, minerals,** and **fuels.**

Natural resources are used in many ways. Air is found above the earth's surface. Air is a mixture of gases. Oxygen is a gas found in the air that animals need to breath in. Plants need carbon dioxide gas from the air.

Water is also needed by living things. Without water they would die. Water is found all over the earth. 75% of earth is water. There are two kinds of water on earth **(Salt water** and **fresh water)**. Salt water can be found in the ocean. Fresh water can be found in rivers, ponds, streams, and lakes. Some water on the earth is solid. Solid water is ice. At the North and South Poles, it is always cold. The ice and snow do not melt. These are called glaciers and ice bergs.

Soil is also used for growing crops and making bricks. Plants are used for food, furniture, paper and clothes. **Rocks** are used to build homes and make roads.

Minerals are solids (hard) substances found on Earth like gold, diamonds, salt, and iron. They can be used to make coins, furniture and jewelry. Some minerals found in the Bahamas are salt and aragonite (a type of limestone). Fuels like coal and oil have many uses. They are used to run engines (in cars, trucks and other vehicles), in factories, and by power companies to produce electricity.



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