What are Resources?

A **resource** is something that can be used to make something else. It may be a natural material like soil, water, gas or mineral. Or it may be a special skill. Skills such as those of doctors, farmers, or teachers are resources. Resources are used within a country in **manufacture, trade jobs**, and **services**.

Natural Resources

Natural resources are the raw materials produced by nature. The Earth is full of these resources. Some are found **underground**: water, and minerals like iron, ore, coal, gold, silver and oil. Many of these resources supply fuel for heat, light, and power. Some natural resources are on the land: example, sand, rocks, trees, and salt. Some of these are used in industry. Other natural resources are found under the sea: marine fish and shellfish, and minerals like oil and **aragonite** (a Bahamian resource excavated from the sea floor at Ocean Cay, and used in the manufacture of glass and fertilizers).

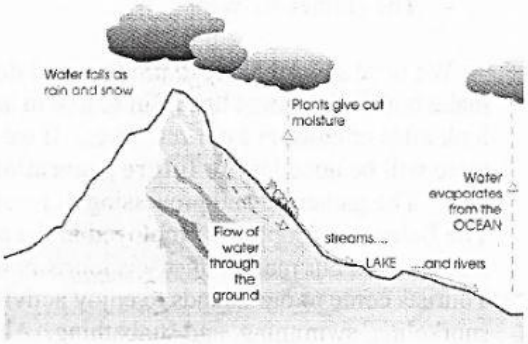
The industries involved with the collection of natural resources are called **primary industries** – mining, fishing, and farming. Most natural resources need some change or **processing** before they can be used.

Human resource

The special skills and knowledge of people are **human resources**. A doctor uses skills that she or he has learnt to cure you when you are ill. Your teacher uses skills in the classroom. A dressmaker uses skills to make clothes.
Human resources are needed to make good use of natural resources.

Renewable resources

Some of the Earth's resources are **renewable**. This means that they can be used over and over again. For example, when trees are cut down, new trees can be planted on the same ground to replace those that have been removed.



Climatic resources are also renewable. Water, a natural resource, evaporates from Earth's surface to form clouds. The water is returned to the Earth again as rain or snow. This process is called the **water cycle**. Renewable resources should not run out if they are used wisely. The rainforests are renewable resources.

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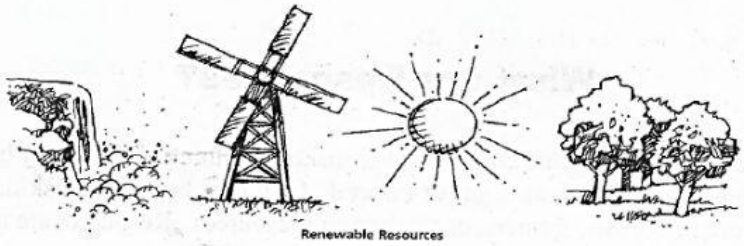
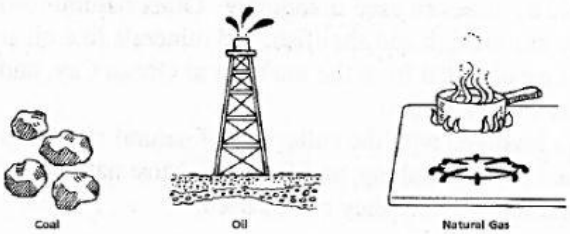


Non-renewable resources

Some resources cannot be replaced once they have been used. These are **non-renewable**. Minerals like oil and coal are non-renewable resources. They are essential to the needs of modern society. New sources of these minerals are constantly being sought, but one day they will run out. The consequences for the world could be disastrous.



Importance of resources to economic development

Today people use many different resources to meet their needs. These resources are important to our survival in a changing world. They provide."

- The materials to build our homes.
- The fuel to heat and light our homes
- The food we eat
- The clothes we wear

We need special skills to produce and develop these resources. Resources also make our environment beautiful to live in and pleasant to look at. It is important to look after or **conserve** our resources. If we use too much of them or waste them, there will be none left for **future generations**.

The gathering and processing of resources help our country to develop. In The Bahamas, people are employed in the primary industries of farming and fishing. But our main industry is tourism, which supplies most of our income. Tourists come to our islands to enjoy activities like scuba diving, game fishing, snorkeling, swimming, and sunbathing. All these depend upon the conservation of our natural resources.

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Conserving Resources and Recycling

How much of our resources will be left for the future generations depends on how we use our resources now. Many of the world's resources are being used up too fast.

Countries that have many different manufacturing industries are using a large amount of the world's minerals. These are used to make a vast range of products, from airplanes and bombs to cars and toys. Huge quantities of coals, oil, and natural gas are also used, to provide energy for the factories and fuel for transport.

Some people say: 'We should not make products from natural resources unless they can be **recycled**.' This means using the product again in some way. If the oil is turned into plastic, it can never be changed back – it can never become a part of the Earth again. But it can be **recycled**. For example, recycled plastic can be used to make plastic containers, fiber insulation or polyester fabric. Motor oil can be recycled and used as fuel for ships and industrial boilers.

Recycle has two very important benefits: It **preserves** resources, and it **saves** energy

Conserving and Recycling: what you can do

- Use less water
- Collect kitchen vegetable waste and vegetable cut from the garden. It will enrich and improve the soil.
- Collect aluminum, glass, and paper. Take them to the nearest recycling center.
- Keep plastic, and paper bags. Use them again and again, to carry shopping or collecting rubbish.

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Questions: Answer all questions

1) Define the term resource. (2pts)

_____

2) Give **two (2)** skills that are resources. (2pts) _____,

_____

3) _____ are the raw materials produced by nature. (1pt)

4) Name **three (3)** mineral resources that are found underground. (3pts)

_____ _____ _____

5) Some natural resources are found on land. Give two (2) examples. (2pts)

_____ _____

6) Name the natural resource that is excavated from the sea floor at Ocean Cay. (1pt)

_____. What is this resource used to manufacture? (3pts)

_____ _____

7) What are primary industries? (2pts)

_____

_____

8) Name **two (2)** Primary Industries. (2pts) _____ _____

9) The special skills and knowledge of people are _____

(1pt)

10) Explain what are renewable resources (2pts)

_____

_____

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11) Give **two (2)** example of renewable resources. (2pts) _____

_____

12) Explain what are non-renewable resources. (2pts)

_____

13) Give two examples of non-renewable resources. (2pts) _____

_____

14) List two (2) ways resources are important to our survival. (2pts)

_____

_____

15) Name three (3) resources that attract visitors to the Bahamas. (3pts)

_____ _____ _____

16) State three (3) ways we can conserve our resources. (3pts)

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