

# Lesson 5: Resources and the Environment

## Vocabulary

**natural resource** something found in nature that people can use

**mineral** something found on Earth that is neither an animal nor a plant

**fossil fuel** fuel formed from the remains of plants and animals that lived thousands of years ago

**renewable resource** a resource that can be replaced

**nonrenewable resource** a resource that cannot be easily replaced

**conservation** preserving and protecting resources

**environment** all the things that surround us; for example, land, air, and water

**pollution** the addition of harmful things to the air, water, or soil

## A Land Rich in Resources

The United States has many **natural resources**. Farmers use the land to grow crops. Wood from trees is used to build homes and make paper. **Fossil fuels** like coal, oil, and natural gas are used for energy. Fossil fuels are formed in the earth from remains of plants and animals that lived long ago. People also use **minerals** such as gold, salt, and aluminum. Minerals are neither animal nor plant.

## Resources and People

Natural resources are very important to the United States. But the country does not have enough natural resources to last forever.

**Renewable resources**, such as trees, can be replaced. **Nonrenewable resources**, such as oil, are harder to replace. We must protect and use each type of resource carefully. Protecting resources and using them carefully is called **conservation**. Natural resources are part of our **environment**. The environment includes all the things that surround us. Protecting our natural resources will help protect our environment.


## Our National Parks

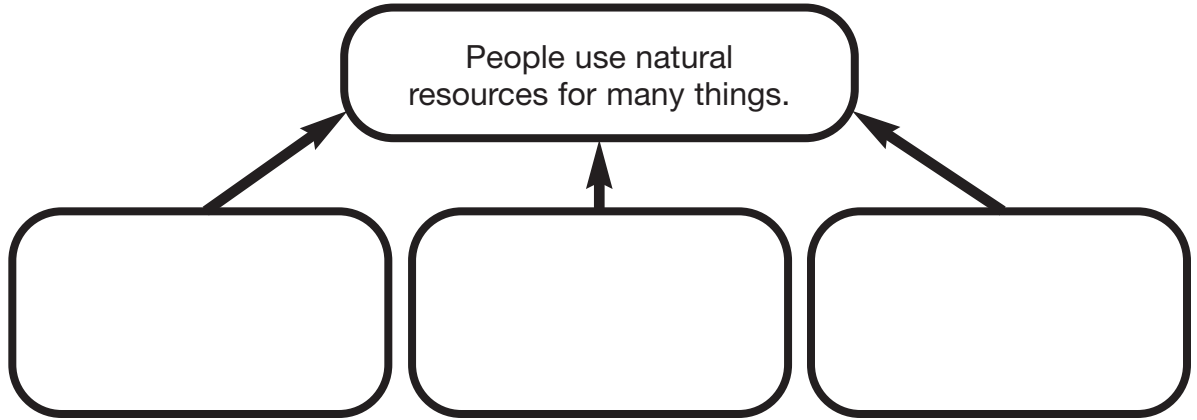
National parks are areas of land protected by the U.S. government. There are more than 50 national parks. They are set up all over the country. Yellowstone National Park was created in 1872. The Grand Canyon and parts of the Everglades are also national parks. National parks help protect our environment. Many types of plants and animals live in the parks.

## Protecting the Environment

**Pollution** is the addition of harmful things to the air, water, or soil. Pollution is a problem in our environment. People can lessen pollution by recycling, or reusing things. Protecting the environment is important. We need natural resources for food and electricity. We also need clean air and water in order to be healthy.

# Lesson 5: Review

1.  **Main Idea and Details** Fill in the three details that support the main idea.



2. What are three examples of mineral resources?

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3. How are renewable and nonrenewable resources the same? How are they different?

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4. How do national parks help to protect the environment?

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5. **Critical Thinking: Point of View** Do you think recycling is important in protecting the environment? Why or why not?

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