



NAME _____ DATE _____

Have each person in your team read one of the following clues aloud. Then, working as a team, use the clues to write definitions for the terms **renewable resource** and **nonrenewable resource**.

CLUE 1: On Earth, there are limited amounts of fossil fuels such as oil, coal, and natural gas. There are also limited amounts of minerals such as iron, copper, and phosphates. These resources either cannot be replaced by natural processes or require millions of years.

CLUE 2: Some nonrenewable and renewable natural resources can be reused or recycled, to reduce the total amount of new material used. Using a reusable water bottle instead of single-use plastic bottles is an example of reuse. Recycling involves processing waste to make it reusable. For example, the motor oil from a car can be reprocessed into fuels or refined again into lubricating oils.

CLUE 3: Renewable natural resources include plants, animals, and water, when they are properly cared for. Minerals and fossil fuels, such as coal and oil, are examples of nonrenewable natural resources.

CLUE 4: Trees, wildlife, water, and many other natural resources may be restocked by natural processes or by people. Water is continuously cycled and reused. Sunlight, wind, geothermal heat, tides, and flowing water are resources that are constantly renewed or restored.

Renewable resource:

Nonrenewable resource:

CAREER CORNER

NATURAL RESOURCE ECONOMISTS study the economic effects of decisions about natural resource use. They may analyze the costs and benefits of different options or use sophisticated computer programs to model various scenarios.

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NAME _____ DATE _____

Work as a team to respond to the following prompts.

1. Categorize the following as renewable or nonrenewable resources and place them in the chart.

- Coal
- Corn
- Geothermal energy (hot springs)
- Gold
- Natural gas
- Petroleum (oil)
- Sand
- Sunlight
- Tides
- Trees
- Water
- Wind

| Renewable Resources | Nonrenewable Resources |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| | |

2. In the chart below, list items you can see around you that are made from renewable and nonrenewable resources. In the third column, list renewable natural resources that could be used instead of the nonrenewable ones.

| Items Made from Renewable Resources | Items Made from Nonrenewable Resources | Renewable Resources that Could Be Used Instead |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| | | |

3. What are pros and cons for using renewable natural resources in place of nonrenewable ones?

Pros: _____

Cons: _____

4. When might a renewable natural resource not be renewable?
