



# Lesson: Our Natural Resources

**Grade:** K-3

**Subject:** Science

**Objective:**

Students will:

- differentiate between natural resources and man-made items
- describe how families use natural resources

**Teaching Time:** 30 minutes

**Materials:** 3x5 index cards; drawing paper; transparency, Natural Resource Tree; Worksheet: How Families Use Natural Resources

(Optional): Create a Natural Resource Bulletin Board (see Extensions in the Resources section).



**REDUCE**  
**REUSE**  
**RECYCLE**

## Background:

Natural resources are the raw materials supplied by nature. Everything produced, used and thrown away originates from natural resources. People cannot create natural resources. Even though we use natural resources in our daily activities, we often do not even think of them as being resources. Use the following list for ideas for this activity.

<u>Natural Resources</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Products</u>
air	fly kites, sail	balloons, tires, soccer balls
water	fish, swim, ski,	soft drinks, swimming pools, electricity
soil	dig for worms, grow a garden	sand boxes, glass
plants	climb trees, play on the grass	apples, bread, strawberries peanut butter paper, clothes (cotton), furniture (wood)
animals	playing with a pet, fishing, watching birds	hamburgers, cheese, milk, eggs, bacon, silk blouse, shoes (leather), wool sweaters
fossil fuels	watching TV, using computer games, heating our homes (natural gas) riding in a car or plane	plastic toys, gasoline, backpack, winter coats, electricity
minerals	climb on rocks, play at a playground	pop cans, bikes, cars, school desks, swing sets

## Procedure:

- Before class, label each one of the seven index cards with the name of a natural resource.
- **Picture yourself standing in your backyard or in your favorite park. What do you see?** Get plenty of responses.
- **Everything that you have named is either a natural resource or is made from natural resources. Natural resources are all the things in nature which we use to live.**
- Show the transparency, Natural Resource Tree.
- List the seven natural resources on the board and show students the 3x5 cards with the name of one natural resource on each. Let each student choose a card (without looking) and give an example of how the student *enjoys* that resource or has a *product* made from that resource.
- Discuss how the product, like writing paper, is different from its source--a tree.

### **Reflection/Response:**

- Have each student make a drawing or poster of his/her family enjoying natural resources. Don't forget to include products made from natural resources!
- **Can you think of anything that is not provided by the earth?**
- Have students complete the worksheet, "How Families Use Natural Resources In Their Lives."
- Ask students to describe what would happen if we used or polluted all or most of our natural resources like trees, oil, or rivers.
- Make a list on the board of suggestions for conserving natural resources such as:
  - not wasting products
    - don't take more napkins, towels or condiment packets than you need
  - using both sides of writing paper (or making note pads out of singled-sided used paper)
  - finding ways to reuse things: like glass jars, plastic tubs or bottles
  - collecting unwanted items at the end of the school year that are still useable and redistributing them the next school year
  - recycling as much as you can

### **Extension:**

- Play "Find the Resource." Let one student name a manufactured object, such as a car. The first student to name a natural resource used in the object gets to offer the next man-made object.
- Make a Natural Resource Bulletin Board, see example page in the Resource section.
- Teach the importance of natural resource preservation. In a show and tell, have each student share their favorite item and list the resources used to make it. Discuss with the student what would be done if it were broken. Could it be repaired or used in some other way?

#### **Common Curriculum Goal:**

**Science:** Earth and Space Science

- Understand the properties and limited availability of the materials which make up the Earth.

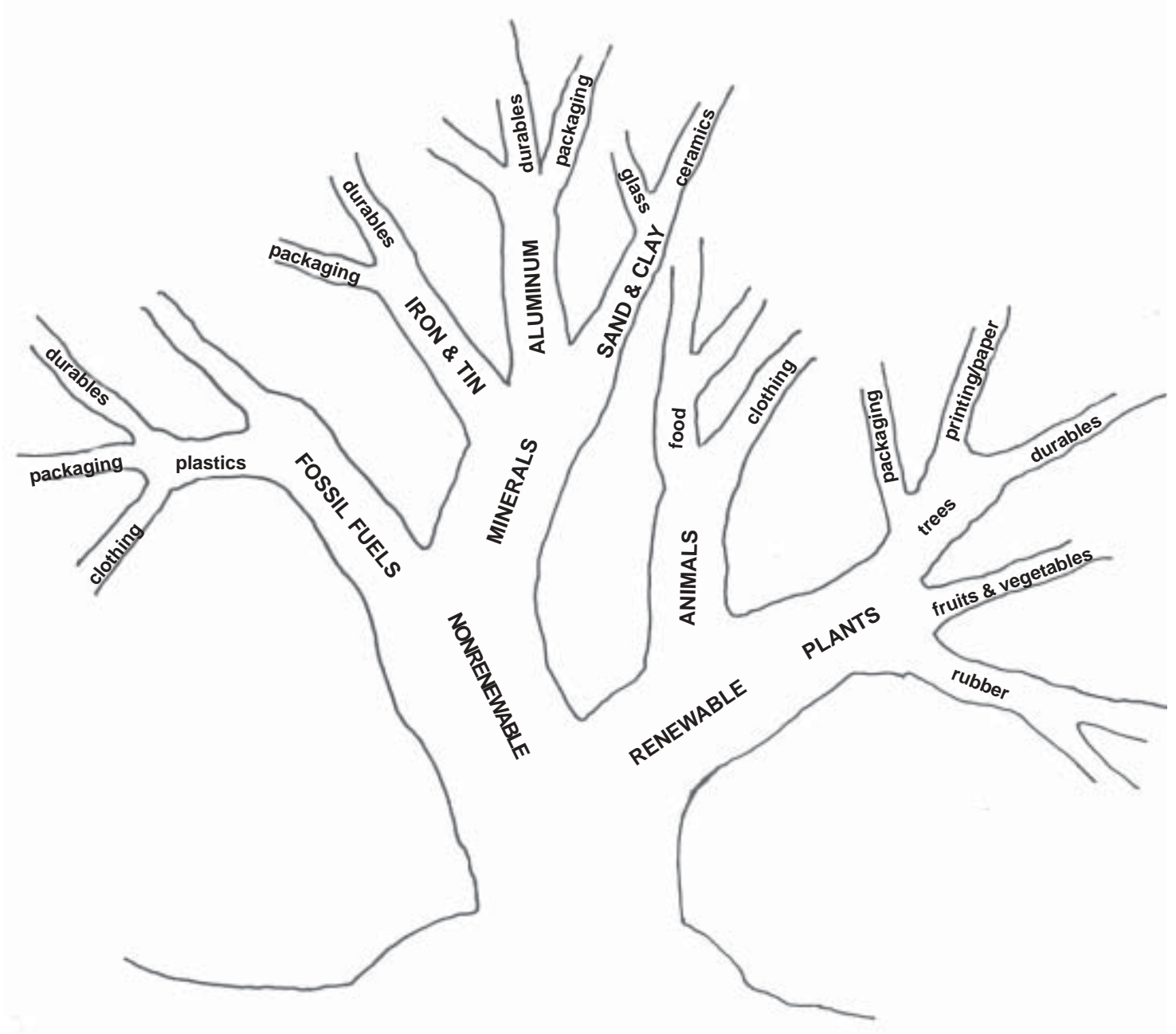
#### **Grade 3 Benchmark:**

- Identify materials that make up the Earth.



# Overhead: Natural Resource Tree

The earth is the source of everything we make, use, and throw away.





# Worksheet: How Families Use Natural Resources

Draw a line from each thing on the left to the natural resource it came from on the right. Some pictures may match more than one resource, can you find them all?

