

Types of Natural Resources

Chapter 1: Natural Resources and Their Use · Topic 1

Key Concept

Renewable resources, like sunlight, wind, and water, can be replenished naturally over a relatively short time and are considered more sustainable for long-term use.

Non-renewable resources, like coal, petroleum, and natural gas, take millions of years to form and are being used up faster than they can be replaced.

Some resources, like forests, can be renewable if managed sustainably (through replanting), but can become non-renewable if overused without proper management.

Understanding the difference between renewable and non-renewable resources helps us make better decisions about conservation and sustainable resource use.

Quick Revision Notes

- Renewable resources are replenished naturally.
- Examples of renewable resources: sunlight, wind, water.
- Non-renewable resources take millions of years to form.
- Examples of non-renewable resources: coal, petroleum, natural gas.
- Non-renewable resources are being used up faster than replaced.
- Forests can be renewable if managed sustainably.
- Overuse can make a renewable resource effectively non-renewable.
- Understanding this helps guide conservation decisions.

Practice Questions

- 1 List three renewable and three non-renewable resources.
- 2 Discuss why petroleum is considered non-renewable.
- 3 Explain how forests can be managed sustainably.
- 4 Research the time it takes for coal to form.
- 5 Discuss ways to conserve non-renewable resources.
- 6 Create a poster comparing renewable and non-renewable resources.