



Natural Resources

Definition :

Natural resources are the raw materials, substances, or components found in the environment that have intrinsic value to humanity. They are essential for our survival, well-being, and economic development. These resources can be categorized into several main types:

Classification of Natural Resources:

Renewable Resources: These are resources that can be naturally replaced or regenerated at a rate comparable to, or faster than, they are consumed. Examples include:

Solar Energy: Captured through solar panels.

Wind Energy: Harnessed through wind turbines.

Forests: Providing timber, oxygen, and habitat.

Fisheries: Sustainable fishing practices ensure resource renewal.

Non-renewable Resources: These resources have a finite supply and cannot be replaced in a human time frame. They include:

Fossil Fuels: Coal, oil, and natural gas.

Minerals: Metals like iron, copper, and valuable minerals.

Nuclear Fuels: Uranium for nuclear power generation.

Flow Resources: These are resources that are essentially inexhaustible and naturally replenished. Examples include:

Water Resources: Rivers, lakes, and groundwater.

Geothermal Energy: Heat from the Earth's interior.

Tidal Energy: Energy generated by tidal movements

Stock Resources: Stock resources have a limited quantity and do not naturally renew. They can be managed sustainably, but careful use is essential. Examples include:

Soil: Vital for agriculture.



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Biodiversity: The variety of life on Earth.

Land Resources: Land for housing, industry, and agriculture.

Human-Made Resources: These are resources created or modified by human activities, such as:

Infrastructure: Roads, bridges, and buildings.

Technology: Computers, machinery, and tools.

Artificial Lakes: Created for water supply or power generation.

Natural Resources: Natural resources encompass a wide range of elements found in the environment that are essential for human survival and development. These resources can be categorized into three primary groups: renewable (e.g., sunlight, wind, water), non-renewable (e.g., fossil fuels, minerals), and flow resources (e.g., freshwater).

Resource Depletion: One of the central concerns surrounding natural resources is their depletion. Non-renewable resources, like fossil fuels, are finite and exhaustible. As future leaders, it's crucial to consider sustainable practices to ensure that these resources are available for generations to come.

Environmental Impact: The extraction and utilization of natural resources often have profound environmental consequences, such as deforestation, habitat destruction, and climate change. Developing an awareness of these issues is pivotal for informed decision-making.

Economic and Social Implications: Natural resources play a significant role in economies and societies around the world. Understanding how resource availability and access can impact economic development and social equity is crucial.

Conservation and Sustainability: Conservation of natural resources and sustainability are key components of any responsible management strategy. Learning about sustainable practices and how they can be implemented is vital for a more environmentally-conscious future.

Innovation and Technology: Many solutions to natural resource challenges lie in innovation and technology. Whether it's renewable energy sources, recycling, or more efficient resource use, these areas offer exciting opportunities for research and development.

Global Perspective: Natural resource issues are global, and their management often requires international cooperation. Being aware of global initiatives and agreements related to natural resources, such as the Paris Agreement, is important.



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Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQs) with Answers :
(Set- 1)

1. What are natural resources?

- a) Human-made materials
- b) Resources created by governments
- c) Materials found in the natural environment
- d) Resources used for industrial production

Answer: c) Materials found in the natural environment

2. Which of the following is an example of a renewable natural resource?

- a) Fossil fuels
- b) Coal
- c) Water
- d) Minerals

Answer: c) Water

3. Which type of natural resource is not depleted with use?

- a) Non-renewable resource
- b) Renewable resource
- c) Abiotic resource
- d) Biotic resource

Answer: b) Renewable resource

4. What is the primary source of renewable energy on Earth?

- a) Oil
- b) Solar energy
- c) Natural gas
- d) Nuclear energy

Answer: b) Solar energy



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5. Which of the following is an example of a non-renewable natural resource?

- a) Wind energy
- b) Timber
- c) Natural gas
- d) Geothermal energy

Answer: c) Natural gas

6. What is the main cause of deforestation and its impact on natural resources?

- a) Climate change
- b) Soil erosion
- c) Urbanization
- d) Cutting down trees

Answer: d) Cutting down trees

7. Which of the following is a biotic natural resource?

- a) Petroleum
- b) Fish
- c) Minerals
- d) Natural gas

Answer: b) Fish

8. What is the term for the responsible use and conservation of natural resources to ensure their availability for future generations?

- a) Environmental exploitation
- b) Sustainable development
- c) Resource depletion
- d) Ecological destruction

Answer: b) Sustainable development



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9. Which of the following is a strategy to conserve water resources?

- a) Increasing water usage
- b) Water pollution
- c) Water recycling
- d) Deforestation

Answer: c) Water recycling

10. Which international treaty aims to protect the ozone layer by phasing out the use of ozone-depleting substances?

- a) Kyoto Protocol
- b) Paris Agreement
- c) Montreal Protocol
- d) Rio Declaration

Answer: c) Montreal Protocol

(Set- 2)

Question 1: What are natural resources?

- A) Resources that are created by humans
- B) Resources that can be replenished quickly
- C) Resources that are found in nature and used by humans
- D) Resources that are found on other planets

Answer 1: C) Resources that are found in nature and used by humans

Question 2: Which of the following is an example of a non-renewable resource?

- A) Solar energy
- B) Wind energy
- C) Fossil fuels
- D) Forests

Answer 2: C) Fossil fuels



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Question 3: What type of natural resource is sunlight?

- A) Renewable resource
- B) Non-renewable resource
- C) Inexhaustible resource
- D) Synthetic resource

Answer 3: C) Inexhaustible resource

Question 4: Which of the following is an example of a renewable resource?

- A) Natural gas
- B) Minerals
- C) Water
- D) Nuclear energy

Answer 4: C) Water

Question 5: Deforestation is a major concern because it leads to:

- A) Increased availability of wood products
- B) Decreased biodiversity
- C) Enhanced carbon sequestration
- D) Improved soil fertility

Answer 5: B) Decreased biodiversity

Question 6: What is the process of converting waste materials into reusable materials called?

- A) Recycling
- B) Mining
- C) Extraction
- D) Pollution

Answer 6: A) Recycling



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Question 7: Which of the following is not a fossil fuel?

- A) Coal
- B) Natural gas
- C) Biomass
- D) Petroleum

Answer 7: C) Biomass

Question 8: Which type of pollution is caused by excessive nutrients in water, often from agricultural runoff?

- A) Air pollution
- B) Land pollution
- C) Water pollution
- D) Noise pollution

Answer 8: C) Water pollution

Question 9: The concept of sustainable development aims to:

- A) Deplete natural resources as quickly as possible
- B) Use natural resources without any concern for the future
- C) Meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
- D) Ignore environmental conservation altogether

Answer 9: C) Meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

Question 10: What is the term for the variety of life on Earth, including the diversity of species, ecosystems, and genetic resources?

- A) Ecosystem services
- B) Conservation
- C) Biodiversity
- D) Endemism

Answer 10: C) Biodiversity



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(Set- 3)

1. What are the two main categories of natural resources?

- A. Renewable and Non-renewable
- B. Abiotic and Biotic
- C. Domestic and International
- D. Freshwater and Saltwater

Answer: A. Renewable and Non-renewable

2. Which of the following is an example of a renewable natural resource?

- A. Crude oil
- B. Natural gas
- C. Solar energy
- D. Gold

Answer: C. Solar energy

3. Fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas are examples of:

- A. Renewable resources
- B. Biotic resources
- C. Non-renewable resources
- D. Domestic resources

Answer: C. Non-renewable resources

4. Which of the following is not a biotic natural resource?

- A. Forests
- B. Wildlife
- C. Water
- D. Agricultural crops

Answer: C. Water





5. What type of natural resource is soil?

- A. Renewable
- B. Non-renewable
- C. Abiotic
- D. Domestic

Answer: C. Abiotic

6. The classification of natural resources based on origin includes:

- A. National and International
- B. Inexhaustible and Exhaustible
- C. Biotic and Abiotic
- D. Conventional and Non-conventional

Answer: C. Biotic and Abiotic

7. Which of the following is an example of a non-conventional natural resource?

- A. Crude oil
- B. Wind energy
- C. Gold
- D. Natural gas

Answer: B. Wind energy

8. Water can be classified as a resource based on its use. What is the main category for this classification?

- A. Inexhaustible resource
- B. Domestic resource
- C. Surface resource
- D. Freshwater resource

Answer: D. Freshwater resource



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9. Which of the following is an example of an international natural resource?

- A. Minerals
- B. Oceans
- C. Forests
- D. Air

Answer: B. Oceans

10. Which classification of natural resources focuses on the impact of human activity on the environment?

- A. National resources
- B. Economic resources
- C. Anthropogenic resources
- D. Conventional resources

Answer: C. Anthropogenic resources

(Set- 4)

1. What is the primary classification of natural resources based on their origin?

- a) Renewable and Non-renewable
- b) Biotic and Abiotic
- c) Inexhaustible and Exhaustible
- d) Geological and Biological

Answer:a) Renewable and Non-renewable

2. Which of the following is an example of a non-renewable resource?

- a) Wind energy
- b) Solar energy
- c) Fossil fuels
- d) Timber

Answer: c) Fossil fuels





3. Biotic resources are derived from:

- a) Living organisms
- b) Non-living sources
- c) Geological processes
- d) Natural disasters

Answer: a) Living organisms

4. Which type of resource is coal, in the context of its classification as natural resources?

- a) Renewable
- b) Non-renewable
- c) Inexhaustible
- d) Abiotic

Answer: b) Non-renewable

5. Minerals, metals, and rocks fall under which classification of natural resources?

- a) Renewable
- b) Biotic
- c) Abiotic
- d) Inexhaustible

Answer: c) Abiotic

6. Which of the following is an example of an inexhaustible resource?

- a) Petroleum
- b) Water
- c) Natural gas
- d) Iron ore

Answer: b) Water



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7. Which classification is based on the rate of consumption and replenishment of a resource?

- a) Biotic and Abiotic
- b) Geological and Biological
- c) Renewable and Non-renewable
- d) Inexhaustible and Exhaustible

Answer: c) Renewable and Non-renewable

8. Forests, wildlife, and fisheries are examples of which type of resource?

- a) Non-renewable
- b) Abiotic
- c) Biotic
- d) Inexhaustible

Answer: c) Biotic

9. Which classification considers resources that can be replaced or regenerated naturally over time?

- a) Renewable
- b) Non-renewable
- c) Inexhaustible
- d) Abiotic

Answer: a) Renewable

10. Wind, solar, and hydropower are examples of which type of resource?

- a) Non-renewable
- b) Inexhaustible
- c) Abiotic
- d) Biotic

Answer: b) Inexhaustible.

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