Resources and Empires

Sort resources used from 1500 to 1900.

WG.5.4 "Identify patterns of world resource distribution and utilization, and explain the impacts of using renewable and nonrenewable resources."

NAME _____ DATE _____

RENEWABLE	NONRENEWABLE
Nature can replace this resource on a human time scale. Where people can use it depends on local conditions, and using too much can still harm the environment.	This resource forms too slowly for people to replace what they use. Its deposits are found in particular places, and extracting or using it can damage land or air.
Ocean tides power coastal machinery.	Diamonds taken from an underground deposit.

1 SORT

8 items

For each numbered item, circle RENEWABLE or FINITE, then choose two items and explain how you knew where each belonged.

1.	Coal burned in an 1800s British factory	RENEWABLE	FINITE
2.	Iron ore dug up for 1800s railroad tracks	RENEWABLE	FINITE
3.	Wind moving a 1700s sailing ship	RENEWABLE	FINITE
4.	River flow turning a 1800s grain mill	RENEWABLE	FINITE
5.	Silver ore dug up in colonial Peru	RENEWABLE	FINITE
6.	Cotton grown each season on 1800s plantations	RENEWABLE	FINITE
7.	Sunlight drying harvested crops in the 1700s	RENEWABLE	FINITE
8.	Petroleum extracted for 1800s lamp fuel	RENEWABLE	FINITE

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new example of a renewable resource and one new example of a nonrenewable resource used between 1500 and 1900.

RENEWABLE _____

FINITE _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one renewable and one nonrenewable item from Part 1; explain how their locations affected trade between 1500 and 1900, and give one environmental impact of using each.

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PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Coal burned in an 1800s British factory	**FINITE**	Coal forms over millions of years and cannot be replaced on a human time scale.
2	Iron ore dug up for 1800s railroad tracks	**FINITE**	Iron ore comes from deposits that are depleted by extraction.
3	Wind moving a 1700s sailing ship	**RENEWABLE**	Wind is continually produced by natural processes.
4	River flow turning a 1800s grain mill	**RENEWABLE**	The water cycle replenishes river flow, though its availability varies by place and season.
5	Silver ore dug up in colonial Peru	**FINITE**	Silver ore comes from deposits that cannot be replaced on a human time scale.
6	Cotton grown each season on 1800s plantations	**RENEWABLE**	Cotton plants can be grown again in new growing seasons.
7	Sunlight drying harvested crops in the 1700s	**RENEWABLE**	Using sunlight does not deplete its supply.
8	Petroleum extracted for 1800s lamp fuel	**FINITE**	Petroleum takes millions of years to form and is depleted by extraction.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **RENEWABLE**: Bamboo harvested and regrown for building materials.
- **FINITE**: Copper ore extracted for electrical wire in the 1800s.

Challenge: Silver from colonial Peru traveled overseas because its deposits were concentrated there; mining disturbed the land. Cotton from plantations in the Americas traveled to British mills; expanding fields could clear forests.

Accept explanations that distinguish resources replenished on a human time scale from deposits that are not. Renewable does not mean free of environmental harm.