Resource Routes

Sort the resources regions use.

4.C.4.2.B "Distinguish between renewable (e.g., water, soil, solar) and nonrenewable resources (e.g., fossil fuels: oil, natural gas, coal) and explain how they are used to produce goods and services, using examples from regional economies."

NAME _____ DATE _____

RENEWABLE	NONRENEWABLE
Nature can replace a renewable resource. People must still use it with care.	A nonrenewable resource does not form again quickly enough for people to replace what they use.
Wind moves boats that take visitors on lake tours.	Iron ore is mined to make steel for bridges in a valley.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle a category for each item, then pick two items for Part 2 and explain how you knew where each belongs.

1. River water makes electricity for a mountain town. RENEWABLE LIMITED

2. Coal is burned to power a factory in a mining region. RENEWABLE LIMITED

3. Natural gas heats shops in a coastal town. RENEWABLE LIMITED

4. Sunlight powers a desert school's solar panels. RENEWABLE LIMITED

5. Soil helps plains farms grow wheat. RENEWABLE LIMITED

6. Replanted pine trees grow into lumber for a forest mill. RENEWABLE LIMITED

7. Oil is made into plastic bottles at a city plant. RENEWABLE LIMITED

8. Gasoline made from oil runs city buses. RENEWABLE LIMITED

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

In Part 3, write one new resource for each category and tell how each could be used in a region.

RENEWABLE _____

LIMITED _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one renewable and one nonrenewable item from Part 1, and explain how each helps produce a good or service in its region.

ANSWER KEY

Resource Routes

GRADE 4 · 4.C.4.2.B

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	River water makes electricity for a mountain town.	**RENEWABLE**	The water cycle replaces river water.
2	Coal is burned to power a factory in a mining region.	**LIMITED**	Coal takes millions of years to form.
3	Natural gas heats shops in a coastal town.	**LIMITED**	Natural gas takes millions of years to form.
4	Sunlight powers a desert school's solar panels.	**RENEWABLE**	Sunlight is continually supplied by the sun.
5	Soil helps plains farms grow wheat.	**RENEWABLE**	Soil can be renewed through natural processes and careful use.
6	Replanted pine trees grow into lumber for a forest mill.	**RENEWABLE**	New pine trees can grow to replace harvested trees.
7	Oil is made into plastic bottles at a city plant.	**LIMITED**	Oil takes millions of years to form.
8	Gasoline made from oil runs city buses.	**LIMITED**	Gasoline comes from oil, which takes millions of years to form.

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**: Geothermal heat warms buildings in a snowy region.
- **LIMITED**: Limestone is quarried to make cement for roads.

Challenge: Soil helps plains farms grow wheat, a good people can buy. Natural gas heats coastal shops, helping them serve customers.

Part 2 sample: River water is renewable because the water cycle replaces it. Coal is nonrenewable because it takes millions of years to form.