Resources at Work

Sort resources used in the U.S. economy

4.C.4 "Examine the United States of America's economic system and its economic activities which support human development. Describe the features of a market economy and evaluate common benefits and tradeoffs. Define a market economic system..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

RENEWABLE RESOURCE	NONRENEWABLE RESOURCE
Nature can replace this resource in a relatively short time. People still need to use it carefully.	Nature cannot replace this resource as quickly as people use it. The supply can run out.
Heat from deep inside Earth can warm buildings.	Copper ore is mined to make electrical wires.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle RENEWABLE or LIMITED for each item, then choose one item from each group and explain how you knew where each belongs.

1.	Sunlight used by rooftop solar panels	RENEWABLE	LIMITED
2.	Wind turning an electric turbine	RENEWABLE	LIMITED
3.	Coal burned at a power plant	RENEWABLE	LIMITED
4.	River water flowing through a hydroelectric dam	RENEWABLE	LIMITED
5.	Oil pumped from an underground well	RENEWABLE	LIMITED
6.	Natural gas drawn from underground rock	RENEWABLE	LIMITED
7.	Trees from a forest replanted after each harvest	RENEWABLE	LIMITED
8.	Ocean tides that turn a generator	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

Write one new example of a renewable resource and one new example of a limited resource.

RENEWABLE _____

LIMITED _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one renewable and one limited resource from Part 1 that can make electricity. Describe one benefit and one tradeoff of using either resource.

ANSWER KEY # Resources at Work

GRADE 4 · 4.C.4

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Sunlight used by rooftop solar panels	**RENEWABLE**	Sunlight is supplied by the sun each day.
2	Wind turning an electric turbine	**RENEWABLE**	Wind is naturally replenished.
3	Coal burned at a power plant	**LIMITED**	Coal takes millions of years to form.
4	River water flowing through a hydroelectric dam	**RENEWABLE**	The water cycle replenishes river water.
5	Oil pumped from an underground well	**LIMITED**	Oil takes millions of years to form.
6	Natural gas drawn from underground rock	**LIMITED**	Natural gas takes millions of years to form.
7	Trees from a forest replanted after each harvest	**RENEWABLE**	Replanted trees can grow to replace harvested trees.
8	Ocean tides that turn a generator	**RENEWABLE**	Tides occur naturally again and again.

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**: Crops grown again each year.
- **LIMITED**: Gold ore dug from a mine.

Challenge: Wind can make electricity without burning fuel, but it does not always blow. Coal can make electricity when a power plant needs it, but burning coal pollutes the air.

For Part 2, students should explain how nature replaces each chosen resource. For example, wind is naturally replenished, while coal takes millions of years to form.