Resources That Last

Sort resources by whether nature can replace them.

6.C.2 "Analyze the physical systems of the major regions of the Western Hemisphere. Identify and describe on a physical map the major landforms and bodies of water important to the development of each region of the Western Hemisphere..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

RENEWABLE	NONRENEWABLE
Nature can replace a renewable resource within a human lifetime. Some renewable resources must be used carefully so they have time to recover.	A nonrenewable resource forms so slowly that nature cannot replace what people use within a human lifetime.
Moving water in the Columbia River can be used to generate electricity.	Gold deposits in the Yukon take a very long time to form.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle RENEWS or FINITE for each numbered resource, then choose two items and write one sentence explaining how you knew where each belongs.

1. Wind along Patagonia's coast — RENEWS / FINITE
2. Crude oil beneath the Gulf of Mexico — RENEWS / FINITE
3. Copper in Chile's Andes Mountains — RENEWS / FINITE
4. Fish in the waters off Peru — RENEWS / FINITE
5. Sunlight in the Sonoran Desert — RENEWS / FINITE
6. Trees in Canada's forests — RENEWS / FINITE
7. Coal in the Appalachian Mountains — RENEWS / FINITE
8. Natural gas beneath Alberta, Canada — RENEWS / 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 in the Western Hemisphere; name where each is found.

RENEWS _____

FINITE _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one of your examples and write two sentences explaining how its location could create jobs for a nearby community and whether nature can replace it within a human lifetime.

ANSWER KEY

Resources That Last

GRADE 6 · 6.C.2

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Wind along Patagonia's coast	**RENEWS**	Wind is continually replenished.
2	Crude oil beneath the Gulf of Mexico	**FINITE**	Crude oil forms too slowly to replace within a human lifetime.
3	Copper in Chile's Andes Mountains	**FINITE**	Copper deposits cannot be replenished within a human lifetime.
4	Fish in the waters off Peru	**RENEWS**	Fish populations can replenish if catches are managed.
5	Sunlight in the Sonoran Desert	**RENEWS**	Sunlight arrives continually and is not used up when captured.
6	Trees in Canada's forests	**RENEWS**	Trees can regrow within a human lifetime if forests are managed.
7	Coal in the Appalachian Mountains	**FINITE**	Coal takes millions of years to form.
8	Natural gas beneath Alberta, Canada	**FINITE**	Natural gas forms too slowly to replace within a human lifetime.

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)

- **RENEWS**: Moving water in the Columbia River.
- **FINITE**: Gold deposits in the Yukon.

Challenge: Gold deposits in the Yukon could create mining jobs for nearby communities. Nature cannot replace the gold within a human lifetime.

For Part 2, a student might explain that item 1 is renewable because wind is continually replenished and item 2 is nonrenewable because crude oil forms too slowly to replace. Fish and trees are renewable only when people leave enough time for populations or forests to recover.