

# Resource Choices

Compare the benefits and limits of Earth's resources.

**4.11.A** "identify and explain advantages and disadvantages of using Earth's renewable and nonrenewable natural resources such as wind, water, sunlight, plants, animals, coal, oil, and natural gas;"

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline each renewable resource, circle each nonrenewable resource, and write 1 beside an advantage or 2 beside a disadvantage. These marks will help you compare resource choices.

### Choosing Energy Wisely

- ① Renewable resources can be replaced by nature in a fairly short time. Sunlight, wind, and moving water can make electricity again and again. Plants and animals are renewable when people give them time to grow or reproduce. Using sunlight or wind does not require burning fuel, so it can reduce air pollution. However, wind and sunlight are not available equally at every time or place.
- ② Nonrenewable resources, including coal, oil, and natural gas, take millions of years to form from ancient living material. People can store these fuels and use them when needed, which is useful on calm or cloudy days. Yet their supply is limited. Burning them releases carbon dioxide and other air pollutants, and getting them from Earth can disturb land or water.
- ③ When a community chooses energy, it compares advantages and disadvantages. A dam can make electricity from moving water, but it can change a river habitat. Coal, oil, and natural gas can be stored and used when needed, but they will run out. Careful choices can save resources, protect living things, and provide the energy people need.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

**1** Why can plants and animals be renewable resources?

---

---

**2** Give one advantage and one disadvantage of using sunlight or wind for energy.

---

---

**3** How are coal, oil, and natural gas useful, and what is one disadvantage of using them?

---

---

**4** What is one advantage and one disadvantage of making electricity with a dam?

---

---

---

**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

Imagine your town needs energy for a new library. Write exactly 3 sentences that compare one renewable resource and one nonrenewable resource. Include one advantage and one disadvantage of each resource, then state which resource you would choose.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline each renewable resource, circle each nonrenewable resource, and write 1 beside an advantage or 2 beside a disadvantage. These marks will help you compare resource choices. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                               | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Why can plants and animals be renewable resources?                                     | <b>They can be renewable when people give them time to grow or reproduce.</b>                                                                                                         |
| 2 | Give one advantage and one disadvantage of using sunlight or wind for energy.          | <b>An advantage is that they do not require burning fuel and can reduce air pollution. A disadvantage is that sunlight and wind are not available equally at every time or place.</b> |
| 3 | How are coal, oil, and natural gas useful, and what is one disadvantage of using them? | <b>They can be stored and used when needed. Their supply is limited, and burning them releases carbon dioxide and other air pollutants.</b>                                           |
| 4 | What is one advantage and one disadvantage of making electricity with a dam?           | <b>A dam can make electricity from moving water. It can change a river habitat.</b>                                                                                                   |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

Wind energy is renewable and does not require burning fuel, but the wind does not blow equally all the time. Natural gas can be stored and used when needed, but it will run out and burning it releases carbon dioxide. I would choose wind with another energy source because it can reduce air pollution.

Accept equivalent advantages and disadvantages that match the passage. For the open response, accept any accurate renewable and nonrenewable comparison that includes a supported choice in exactly three sentences.