

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Energy Puzzle

Imagine you're on a quest to solve an ancient puzzle, but instead of hidden treasures, you're seeking knowledge about our planet's energy sources. Welcome to the world of renewable and non-renewable natural resources!

Let's start with renewable resources. Picture a bright sunny day. The sun's rays are beaming down, providing warmth and light. Solar energy, harnessed from the sun, is one of the most abundant renewable resources we have. We can capture sunlight using solar panels and convert it into electricity to power our homes and gadgets.

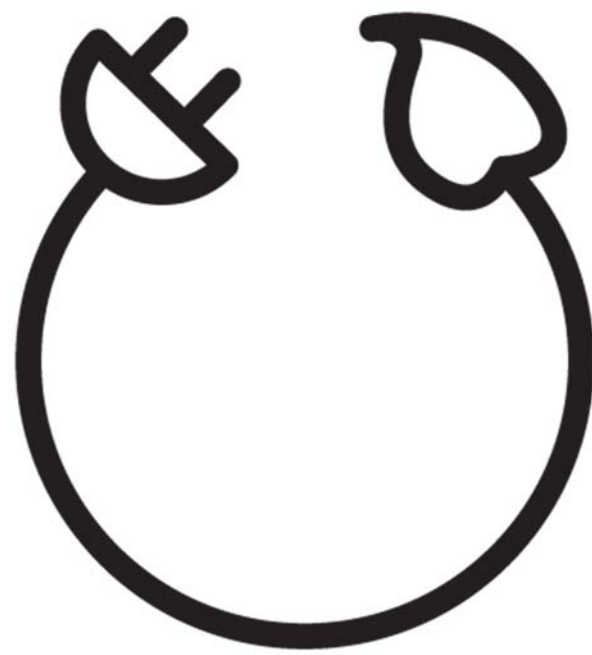
Next up, there's wind energy. Have you ever seen a wind turbine spinning gracefully in the breeze? Wind energy is like a giant invisible hand pushing those blades, generating power as they turn. It's clean, it's endless, and best of all, it doesn't produce harmful pollution like some other energy sources do.

Now, let's talk about non-renewable resources. Imagine diving deep into the Earth's crust, where ancient secrets lie buried. Here, we find fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas. These resources formed over millions of years from the remains of ancient plants and animals. While they provide us with energy to fuel our cars and power plants, they are not infinite. Once we use them up, they're gone for good.

Another non-renewable resource is uranium, used to generate nuclear energy. Uranium is mined from the Earth and processed into fuel for nuclear reactors. Although nuclear energy produces a lot of power, it also comes with risks, such as radioactive waste that needs careful disposal.

So, why does it matter whether a resource is renewable or non-renewable? Well, think of it like this: Imagine you have a basket of apples. If you keep taking apples from the basket without planting new apple trees, eventually you'll run out of apples. Renewable resources are like having an orchard – as long as you plant new trees, you'll always have more apples. Non-renewable resources, on the other hand, are like taking apples from a finite basket – once it's empty, there are no more apples to pick.

By understanding the difference between renewable and non-renewable resources, we can make smarter choices about how we use energy and ensure a brighter, more sustainable future for generations to come.



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### Reading Comprehension Questions

1. Which of the following is an example of a renewable resource mentioned in the passage?

- A) Coal
- B) Oil
- C) Solar energy
- D) Uranium

2. What is one benefit of wind energy mentioned in the passage?

- A) It produces harmful pollution
- B) It is not endless
- C) It is clean and doesn't produce pollution
- D) It is only available during the day

3. Where do fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas come from?

- A) They are mined from the Earth's crust
- B) They come from outer space
- C) They are made in factories
- D) They are grown in fields

4. What is a risk associated with nuclear energy mentioned in the passage?

- A) It is expensive
- B) It produces no power
- C) It generates radioactive waste
- D) It is renewable

5. Why is it important to understand the difference between renewable and non-renewable resources?

- A) Because they are all the same
- B) Because renewable resources are infinite
- C) Because it helps us make smarter choices about energy use
- D) Because renewable resources are harmful