

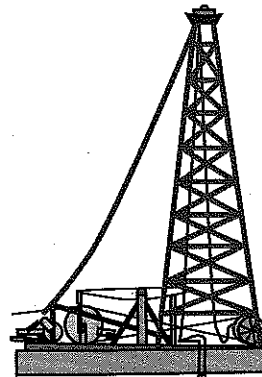
Earth's Resources

Think of the many things you use each day. You wear clothing. You read books. You sit on furniture. You eat food. You ride in cars or trains. Each thing you eat, drink, or use during the day comes from a resource. A **resource** is a material from Earth that living things use. Some resources are natural. That means they are made from materials that come from Earth. Examples of natural resources include minerals, rocks, water, air, soil, plants, animals, and oil.

Resources from the Environment

People meet their needs by using natural resources. We use resources to heat our homes and to build with. These resources include oil, coal, natural gases, trees, soil, air, and sunlight. Oil, coal, and natural gases come from deep within Earth. They are resources that come from plants that died long ago. They are used to make plastics and products burned to produce energy.

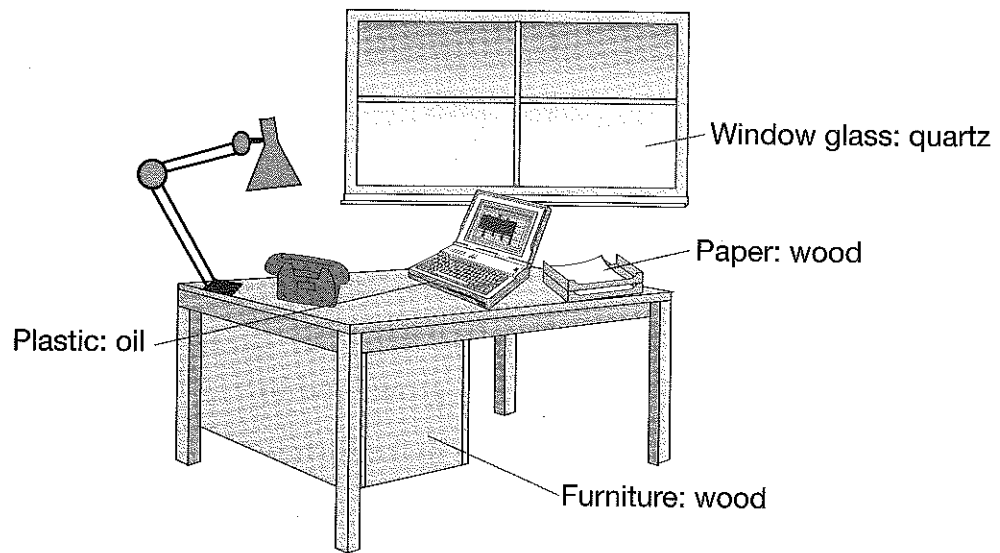
People drill deep into Earth to get oil. They go into coal mines to get coal. This picture shows an oil derrick, a machine that is used to drill for oil.



Other natural resources include minerals and rocks. A mineral is a solid found in nature that is not an organism. More than 3,000 minerals, including gold, quartz, and talc, can be found on Earth. A rock is a solid made up of more than one mineral.

People use minerals and rocks in many ways. Every time you use a pencil, you use a mineral. The point of your pencil is made of graphite, a soft mineral that leaves a dark mark on paper. Quartz is used to make glass. Talc is used to make powder. Many metals come from minerals. The metal aluminum comes from the mineral bauxite and is used to make cans.

Rocks such as granite, limestone, marble, and slate are hard to break and beautiful to look at. As a result, they are used to make roads, building blocks, countertops, statues, and floors. Coal is a rock that is used as a fuel. A **fuel** is a material that is burned to get energy. Minerals and rocks also make up soil, which is used to grow plants for food.



All living things need water to stay alive. Water is a very important natural resource. We humans drink it and use it for cooking, bathing, cleaning, growing food, fighting fires, traveling, and having fun.