

Activity 4



WHAT ARE RENEWABLE RESOURCES?

A natural resource which can be used to benefit people and then be replaced for other people to enjoy is called a **renewable resource**. A resource which has a limited supply and can not be replaced again is called a **non-renewable resource**.

The difference between the two kinds of natural resources has to do with where they come from, or their **source of origin**. For example, your shirt and jeans are probably made from cotton, which comes from a plant. Farmers harvest their cotton crop every year, but the plants will always grow back. In contrast, the gasoline in the family car comes from oil that is drilled out of the earth. Since there is only so much oil that we can use and the earth cannot replace the oil we know that gasoline is made from a non-renewable resource.

PART I: Circle the items that represent renewable resources and cross out those that are non-renewable resources.

OIL WELL **COAL** **COTTON** **TREE**

PART II: Some pencils are made from wood and others are made from plastic (petroleum). Which of these two resources can be replaced? Take a close look at your own pencil and compare it with the chart. Is your pencil made from a renewable resource?

INCENSE-CEDAR	PLASTIC
<p>Pencils made from Incense-Cedar are a reddish brown inside with distinctive grain or growth lines and a cedar aroma. You can usually see a dark vertical line where the two pieces of wood were glued together. Wood pencils are stiff and will not bend. When broken, they leave a rough, uneven edge.</p>	<p>Plastic pencils have a pinkish cast inside and are grain free. Because plastic pencils are squeezed out in one long line (like a string) they have no visible seam or line in the casing. They are flexible, and will bend a full inch or more before breaking. When broken, they snap, leaving clean, straight edges.</p>

PART III: Think of the products that you use on a regular basis. Name three that are made from renewable resources and three that are made from non-renewable resources.

Write your answers on the back.