

1. Perpetual Resources (renewable)
resources that are inexhaustible, regardless their rate of use
Examples: solar, wind,
tidal energy/flowing water, geothermal energy (Earth's internal heat)

Aim:
How are natural resources classified?

2. Renewable Resources
on a human time scale, resources that naturally replenish themselves quickly (hours to decades)
Examples: fresh air, fresh water
fertile soil,
plants and animals (biomass)
Special Note: These resources are only potentially renewable if humans use them in a sustainable manner. (rate of extraction/usage does not exceed rate of replenishment)

3. Nonrenewable Resources
a resource that does not replenish itself at a sufficient rate in human time-frames
Examples:
energy resources: ^{fossil fuels} coal, oil (petroleum), natural gas
uranium (also a mineral resource)
mineral resources: ores – metals extracted from rocks and minerals for economic use
nonmetallic minerals – salt, sand, gypsum, clay