

First Grade, Second Grade

Science

95 minutes

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Without natural resources, our world would be a very different place. Help your class understand the importance of water, plants, and soil with this exploratory science lesson.

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to define a natural resource. Students will be able to identify the main natural resources present in the Earth.

Materials and Preparation

- Plant Resources worksheet
- Soil Resources worksheet
- Water Resources worksheet
- Natural Resources Word Find worksheet
- Notebooks or lined paper
- Library

Key Terms:

- natural resource

Attachments



Plant
Resources



Soil
Resources



Water
Resources



Natural
Resources
Word Find

Lesson

Introduction (5 minutes)

- To begin the lesson, ask your students to tell you the first thing they think of when they hear each of these words: plant, water, soil.
- Ask your class if anyone knows what a natural resource is. Encourage your students to make educated guesses.
- Once the class has come up with a few answers, explain that a **natural resource** is a substance found in the Earth naturally.

Explicit Instruction/Teacher Modeling (15 minutes)

- Write the words plants, soil, and water on the board. Explain that these are the three main types of natural resources.
- Start a class discussion about the importance of plants. Great questions include: *Why are plants important? Could we live without plants? How do plants help us stay alive? How do plants help animals?*
- Explain that plants provide us with food, oxygen to help us breathe, and protection through homes and fire. Plants make and protect soil, feed animals, shelter animals, and are used to make clothes and many medicines.
- Ask your students about the importance of soil. Great discussion questions include: *What is soil? Why is it important? What would our lives be like without soil? Could we live without it? Why or why not?*
- Share that soil contains important nutrients that plants and humans need to stay alive. Soil also helps plants retain the moisture they need to grow and thrive.
- Finally, ask your students about the importance of water. Suggested questions include: *Could we live without water? What about plants and animals? How long could someone survive without water?*
- Explain that water is the most essential natural resource that the Earth gives us, and that plants, animals, and people would die without it.

Guided Practice/Interactive Modeling (30 minutes)

- Pair off students a partner, or ask them to find someone to work with.
- Assign each pair the Water Resources, Plant Resources, and Soil Resources worksheets to complete together.

Independent Working Time *(20 minutes)*

- Ask your students to complete the Natural Resources Word Find.
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Extend

Differentiation

- **Enrichment:** Ask your students to pick a topic out of plants, water, and soil to research. Send these students to the library to choose a book about their topic, or assist them with getting online. Each student should write five benefits about their topic that they learned from the book.
 - **Support:** Ask your students to draw two columns on a sheet of paper. Ask them to label the first column *Know* and the second column *Learned*. Ask your students to write information they know about plants, soil, and water in the know column. Together, review the information that they know, and discuss some things they may not know. Afterward, instruct them to fill the *Learned* column with the new information that they learned.
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Review

Assessment *(10 minutes)*

- Ask your students to write one benefit of plants, one benefit of water, and one benefit of soil in their notebooks or on sheets of lined paper.

Review and Closing *(15 minutes)*

- Ask your students to present one of their worksheets from the guided practice to the class.
- Encourage your class to find three objects at home that were made, directly or indirectly, using plants, water, and soil.

