

Virginia's Natural and Renewable Forest Resource

Intended audience: 4th grade

Duration: ~45 minutes

Lesson Objectives

1. Students will learn how forests are an important natural resource in Virginia.
2. Students will learn the difference between renewable and non-renewable resources.
3. Students will learn about structure of wood
4. Students will learn how wood is manufactured into forest products

Life Skill Objectives

1. Problem solving and decision-making
2. Acquiring, analyzing and using information
3. Managing resources
4. Working with groups
5. Orientation to the world of work, vocations, and money

SOL Links

Science 3.11 – Renewable and non-renewable resources
Science 4.4 – Plant anatomy and life processes
Science 4.8 – Understanding Virginia's natural resources

Supplies

- ✓ House Video, 9 min. (available from your local extension office)
- ✓ Magnifying glasses/hand lens
- ✓ Tissue paper
- ✓ Piece of oak lumber or tree cookie (1/ two students)
- ✓ Examples of Virginia forest products
- ✓ Youth activity sheets

Science SOLs
4.1, 4.4, 4.5, 4.8
5.1, 5.5

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Natural resource home scavenger hunt - Activity sheet

Objective:

- To encourage students to explore their everyday environment to discover the many products they use that come from natural resources and to classify those as originating from renewable or non-renewable natural resources.

Materials:

- Paper, pencil or pen

Background:

All things we use in our daily life come from some kind of resource. Most things people use are made from natural resources. A natural resource is anything that come from nature that people use. Examples could include fossil fuels, rocks and minerals, trees, sun and wind, and ground water.

These examples can loosely be divided into renewable, non-renewable or perpetual resources. Perpetual resources are those that last forever like solar energy and wind. Non-renewable resources, once extracted completely from a given area, will never be available in the same spot again (except after millions of years). Most non-renewable resources come from deep inside the earth, such as rock and fossil fuels.

Renewable resources, on the other hand, can be replenished either with help from humans or not. The purest example of a natural renewable resource is trees. A forest can grows naturally or be planted and managed by people. After several years, trees can be harvested to provide us with wood products. After those trees are cut, more will grow by themselves or we can plant more trees.

Activity:

Have students explore their classroom, school or home for items that came from a natural resource, writing them down in the appropriate column as to what type of natural resource it is from: Non-renewable, renewable or perpetual. Make it a contest by awarding each item 1 point if it is non-renewable, 2 points for each renewable resource and 3 for each item from a perpetual resource they find. Most points wins!