

Our Changing Planet

What are natural resources?

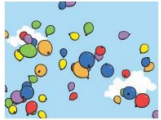
Natural resources are things that occur in nature and that are used by humans. Some natural resources are essential for our survival, while others improve our quality of life. Many natural resources also have significant economic value, which means they are traded (bought/sold). All resources need to be carefully managed to make sure that they last for future generations and to protect the Earth's environment.

Renewable

Can be replaced in our lifetime and produced by nature again.



water



air



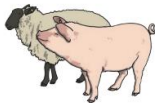
wind



soil



plants



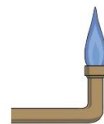
animals

Non-Renewable

Once used, they are gone and cannot be replaced, or they cannot be replaced in our lifetime quickly enough to meet our needs.



oil



natural gas



coal



fossil fuel



minerals



metals

Distribution of natural resources

Britain does not have all the natural resources we need. Some, like coal and oil, have already been mined. Some fuels and minerals do not exist under British ground. Some crops can't be grown because of the climate.

Key suppliers

Energy: natural gas from the North Sea (UK) and from Norway. Oil from the USA.

Food: wheat, meat and dairy mostly from the UK. Netherlands is a major supplier, mostly of fruit and vegetables.

Minerals: gold from Canada, lithium from Chile, diamonds from South Africa

Water: UK


Migration

All through history, people have moved from one place to another. They might be internal migrants (within their own country) or moving to a new country. Migration can lead to an increase in diversity as ideas and cultures mix.




Environmental schemes


Environmental schemes are rules or projects created by governments, communities or charities to help the planet. They are designed to solve problems, such as waste and littering, air pollution, climate change or habitat damage. Environmental schemes work at different scales: local – in a town or city, national – across a whole country or internationally. The aim is to make human activities more sustainable so we can meet our needs today while protecting the environment for future generations. Some schemes focus on changing behaviour (like charging for plastic bags) while others involve protecting or restoring nature.


 **Plastic Bag Charge (UK):** Shops charge for plastic bags.

 **Recycling Schemes (UK):** Councils collect recycling from homes

 **ULEZ (London):** Drivers pay if their car pollutes too much.

 **Land Management Payments (UK):** Farmers paid to protect wildlife.

 **Paris Climate Agreement (Global):** Almost 200 countries promised to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

 **Seagrass Planting (Plymouth):** Seagrass absorbs carbon and helps sea life.

Evaluating effectiveness and impact

When we evaluate a scheme, we ask ourselves the following questions:

Aim – What problem is it trying to solve?

Evidence of Success – How do we know it's working?
(e.g. *less litter, more recycling, cleaner air*).

Limitations or Challenges – What problems remain?
(e.g. *costs, not everyone joins in, results take time*).

Key vocabulary

Distribution	How something is spread over an area
Diversity	The differences within a group of people, e.g. age, race, background and culture
Economic value	The amount of money something is worth
Environmental scheme	A project to look after nature and make the environment healthier
Migration	When a person moves from one place to another, either for a time or forever
Minerals	Natural solids that make up Earth's rocks, sands and soils. Examples are salt, gold, iron, lithium and calcium.
Natural resource	Things that occur in nature and that are used by humans
Non-renewable resources	Resources that cannot be replaced after use
Pull factors	The positive attractions of a new location that encourage someone to want to move there
Push factors	Reasons people leave a place
Renewable resources	Resources that are replaced naturally, and if managed correctly, will not run out
Trade	Buying and selling objects and services.