



# Lesson Plan: Rethink, Grade 2 Social Studies

## Activity

A look at natural resources.

## Introduction

If we look around and investigate where each of the items around us comes from, we'd find a common theme – these items are made from material that comes from nature. These materials are called natural resources. In this lesson, students will explore natural resources in their community and learn how to conserve them.

## Curriculum Connections

Social Studies, 2018

### Grade 2

- B. People and Environments: Global Communities

## Learning Objectives

1. Define natural resources
2. Categorize renewable and non-renewable resources
3. Identify how to Rethink waste

## Resources Provided

- Video: Rethink

## Activity Instructions

1. Introduce the class to natural resources.

**Natural resources** are resources that are found in nature and can be used by people. This includes resources like water, animals, plants, soil, the sun, wind, and minerals. Ontario (the province we live in) is home to many natural resources!

Natural resources help humans meet many of their needs, providing food, energy, transportation, and shelter. Most natural resources need to be processed and manufactured to become the items we use. Other resources, like some plants, can be picked and used right away.

2. Explain that natural resources can be separated into renewable and non-renewable resources and provide examples of resources within each group.

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**Renewable resources** are resources that can be replaced in our lifetime. Some examples of renewable resources include plants, trees, animals, soil, water, wind, and the sun.

**Non-renewable resources** are resources with a limited supply that cannot be replaced in our lifetime after we have used them up. Some examples of non-renewable resources include oil, rocks, minerals, and coal.

3. As a class, create a list of items that are made from the use of trees. This activity aims to illustrate how humans rely on natural resources to meet our needs.
  - Examples include fruits, nuts, maple syrup, paper, tissues, paper towels, coffee, tea, houses, fences, decks, cabinet doors, toothpicks, pencils, clothespins, musical instruments, egg cartons, newspaper, coffee filters, tea bags – and so much more!
4. Animals and humans depend on trees to meet their basic needs and provide oxygen which we need to survive. Even though trees are a renewable resource, it is important to use them very carefully to help make sure that they will be available for future generations.
5. Discuss the following questions as a class:
  - a) What might happen if all the trees were cut down to make space for new houses?
  - b) Would it make it easier or harder for people to meet their needs?
  - c) How would this impact the people in the community?
  - d) How might this impact the environment?

6. Introduce Rethink.

**Rethink** is the first R in the Region's Waste Management Hierarchy. Rethink focuses on how we view and use natural resources with the understanding that these resources are limited. Rethink encourages us to think about what items are made from and to do our best to limit the resources we take from the earth. There are lots of Rethink actions that we can take to reduce the amount of natural resources we use and decrease the amount of waste we create.

7. As a class, watch the Rethink video provided in the resource file.
8. As a group, discuss some ways you can Rethink waste.
  - Avoid unnecessary products.
  - Refuse unwanted merchandise, napkins, and straws.
  - Make items yourself when possible.
  - Share or lend items with your classmates.
  - Donate clothing that no longer fits you and accept used clothing from older siblings and friends.
  - Fix items or choose restored products instead of new ones.
  - Reuse or upcycle used household items.
  - Buy second-hand. Visit a thrift store or a garage sale in your neighborhood for gently used clothing, toys, books, furniture, and shoes.
  - Look for items with less packaging.
  - Choose products made from recycled materials.
  - Use reusable containers and bottles in your lunch bag.

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9. Using the provided worksheet, read the scenarios with the class and have students record their responses.

## Summary

Our planet's population is growing. To make sure that people have the resources available to meet their needs, both now and in the future, it is important that we use natural resources responsibly. Rethinking waste reduces the amount of new natural resources that need to be extracted and processed and reduces waste before it is created.

## Expanded Curriculum Connections

Grade 2 Social Studies (2018)

### B. People and Environments: Global Communities

#### B1. Application: Variations in Global Communities

B1.3 demonstrate an understanding of the importance of sustainability in people's interrelationship with their natural environment and of some of the consequences of sustainable and/or non-sustainable actions