Home Letter

HMH | into Science Texas

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Your child is now beginning TEKS 4.11, "Natural Resources." Read more to find out what your child is exploring!

What We're Doing

What are those giant fans? What do you think their purpose is? What could cause them to turn? What might stop them from turning?

By the end, your child will be able to

- describe the advantages and disadvantages of renewable and nonrenewable resources
- explain how the conservation, disposal, and recycling of natural resources impacts the environment

At-Home Activity

To prepare your child for TEKS 4.11, try this short activity:

- Ask your child if they know what it means for something to be "renewable."
- Have your child make a list of resources they think are renewable and those they think are not renewable.

Engage your child by asking these questions:

- Does being nonrenewable always mean that something can never be replaced?
- Why do think it is important to conserve nonrenewable resources?

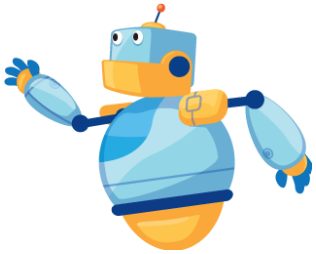
Helpful Resources

HMH Ed Online

Log on to *Ed* to

- download lesson PDFs
- interact with the digital lesson

- explore the FUNomenal Reader *Energy Savers*
- examine the simulation *Developing Renewable Resources*



Science Summary

Vocabulary for this topic includes *natural resource, nonrenewable resource, renewable resource, conservation, pollution, porosity,* and *recycle.*

- Renewable resources are natural resources that can be replenished in a reasonable amount of time. Sunlight, wind, and water are examples of renewable resources. Nonrenewable resources are natural resources that cannot be replenished in a reasonable amount of time. Fossil fuels, such as coal and natural gas, are examples of nonrenewable resources.
- Many natural resources can be obtained only by drilling into the rocks in which they are stored. This often disturbs the environment around the natural resource. Disposing of materials improperly also leads to pollution. It's important to conserve resources and recycle materials to limit impacts on the environment and pollution.

Misconception Alert!

If your child has one of these misconceptions, here's how you can help.

- **Misconception 1: Renewable energy sources work all the time.**

  To address this, explain that—depending on the weather—renewable energy types such as solar energy and wind energy may not be available. Homes with these energy sources use backup sources when there is not enough sun or wind.
- **Misconception 2: Solar panels can provide all the energy a home needs.**

To address this, explain that this is rarely the case, unless the home always receives a lot of wind or sunlight or has large batteries for storing electricity that can be tapped at night or when the wind is weak.

Teacher Comments

[Teacher insert text here for Parents and Guardians]

Thank you for supporting your child's education.

Sincerely,

[Teacher]