Chapter 4: Natural Resources

Lesson 3: Land Resources

Essential Questions

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| Why is land considered a resource? | People use land as a natural resource to meet their needs. They grow crops in land, harvest wood for fuel, paper, or building supplies, and they mine minerals to be used. |
| What are the advantages and disadvantages of using land as a resource? | Land resources such as soil and forests are widely available and easy to access. Additionally crops and trees can be replanted and grown in a relatively short period of time.  Deforestation and pollution are disadvantages as well as the fact that it takes millions of years for minerals to be replaced. |
| How can individuals help manage land resources wisely? | Three Rs reuse-reduce-recycle  Create a compost pile. Grow an organic garden. |
| Key Terms |  |
| Natural resource | Something from Earth that living things use to meet their needs. |
| Living space | All living things need and use land for living space. |
| Forests | Are a land resources providing oxygen, wood products, fuel, and paper products. |
| Minerals | Resources that are mined from the land. |
| Ores | Are deposits of minerals that are large enough to be mined for profit. |
| Deforestation | Is the cutting of large areas of forests for human activities.  Soil erosion and loss of animal habitat are a direct result of this.  It can take hundreds of years to replace complex ecosystems destroyed by deforestation.  Deforestation also has an effect on global  climates as well. |
| Pollution | Runoff from coal mines can cause pollution of soil and water. The same is true of other mineral mines. |