

# CONSERVATION

Claiborne County 4-H  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade - November



**OBJECTIVE:**

Students will learn that there are types of resources in the world: renewable and non-renewable.

Conservation means that must use resources wisely. It does not mean that we shouldn't use them at all.

Air, Soil, and Water are our most precious non-renewable resources. We cannot live without them.

## CONSERVATION

Today's lesson is about the conservation of our natural resources.

Who can tell me conservation means?  
-the careful preservation and protection of something-

Who can tell me what a resource is?  
-a new or reserve source of supply of something we use-



Introduce the terms conservation and resource. Go over the definitions and make it simple

## CONSERVATION

The resources that we use to survive here on Earth can be divided into two broad categories.

The first is Renewable Resources.  
-renewable means that we can make or grow more of something when it is used up.

The second is Non-renewable Resources.  
- non-renewable means that once this resource is used up, we cannot make any more of it. It is gone forever.




Ask the class to try and name these two broad classes of resources. You will have to give big hints and then end up telling the first one (renewable). If you try, they may be able to name the second one (non-renewable). Illustrate these two kinds of resources with the two pictures.

## CONSERVATION

<p><u>Renewable Resources</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- trees for building</li> <li>- plants for food</li> <li>- plants for clothing</li> <li>- plants for fuel</li> <li>- animals for food</li> <li>- animals for clothing</li> <li>- animals for transport</li> <li>- glass (made from sand)</li> </ul>	<p><u>Non -Renewable Resources</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- oil</li> <li>- metals</li> <li>- soil</li> <li>- air</li> <li>- water</li> </ul>
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When 'Renewable Resources' appears, ask the class to name some before advancing. Remind them that we can grow/make more renewable resources. Do the same thing for non-renewable resources.

## CONSERVATION

There are many resources that we use everyday that we don't think about.

It is everyone's job to conserve our natural resources.

There are many ways to practice conservation and we are going to talk about some of them.

What is the first thing you think about when I say: CONSERVATION



After the first line appears, ask the class what resources they have used today. Now we start talking about conservation.

## CONSERVATION

Everyone can think of Recycle, but have you heard of the 3 R's?

### Reduce

To buy things with less packaging or buy things in larger sized containers so that there is less waste to throw away.

### Reuse

Things such as books, clothing, boxes, containers, etc. can be used for other purposes or given to someone else to use after we are through with them

### Recycle

Items such as paper, plastic, steel, aluminum, cardboard, etc. can be broken down and made into new products.

Ask the class to name the 3 R's, reduce, reuse, and recycle. After these terms appear, ask the class to define them. Discuss which of these things the students (or you) do at home on a regular basis.

## CONSERVATION

What types of things are at your house that can be conserved by using the Three R's? Let's take it one category at a time.

### Reduce

- showers not baths
- real plates vs. paper plates
- buy food/supplies in larger sizes (less packaging)
- ????

### Reuse

- clothes
- furniture
- books
- plastic bottles/jugs
- ????

### Recycle

- sort your trash!
- plastic bottles/jugs
- aluminum cans
- any metal
- computers
- ????



After asking the class the initial question, let them name some more things that they do at home that are not on our list.

## CONSERVATION

Do you know the difference between these two symbols?



A product with this symbol is made of material that can be recycled.



A product with this symbol is made from at least some material that has already been recycled.

The symbol on the right means that product has been made with some recycled material. The symbol on the left means that product is made out of a material that can be recycled. Discuss how these symbols might influence our buying habits.

## CONSERVATION

One of our most important non-renewable natural resources is WATER.

Every living thing on Earth needs water to survive.

Our own bodies are made up of two-thirds water.

Many people take water for granted, but we all have to have it.



Now we switch to talking about water. Stress to the class that all living things must have water to survive and that water is a non-renewable resource.

## CONSERVATION

Three-quarters of the Earth is covered in water, so we should have no water shortages, huh? But just where is all of the water on Earth?

Let's take a look....



Oceans and seas



Ice caps and glaciers



Freshwater lakes

but wait, there's more....

Stress to the class that three-quarters (3/4) of the Earth is covered in water but we can only drink a small portion of it. Ask the class where all of the Earth's water is located.

## CONSERVATION



Inland seas



Groundwater



Rivers and streams

Since we have all of this water on Earth, how much is available for people to drink?

A lot?

A little?

After going of the remaining pictures, ask the class 'Just how much of the Earth's water is available for use to drink?'

## CONSERVATION

Would you believe....

Less than 1% (0.63%, actually) is available for humans to drink.

Tell me why you think that is.

With less than 1% of our water available to drink, conserving water becomes very important. What are some things we can do to conserve water each and every day?

take a few less minutes in the shower

turn off the water while brushing teeth

hand wash dishes instead of using the dishwasher

don't run the clothes washer until it is full

wash cars a little less often

Stress to the class that less than 1% of the Earth's water is available for us to drink. In money terms, if all the water on Earth were represented by a dollar bill, less than 1 penny is available for us to drink. Ask the class why this is. (most of our the Earth's water is saltwater or locked up in ice) Discuss some ways we can conserve water.

