

Natural Resources Sorting Activity

Instructions:

- Cut out each of the following pictures. (Laminating would be ideal.)
- Lay four large pieces of paper on tables or floor of the classroom (easel paper works). Put a heading at the top of each: PLANT, ANIMAL, THE GROUND (minerals, rock and soil), and FOSSIL FUELS.
- Guide students to sort the pictures collaboratively into the four categories depending on which natural resource the object is made from. (e.g. a wool sweater comes from sheep, which are animals.) This is what the final result should look like:



PLANTS: bread, wooden chair, paper/book, medicines

ANIMALS: burger, leather sofa, cheese, wool sweater

GROUND: glass, salt, diamond, zinc sunscreen, brick wall

FOSSIL FUELS: toothbrush, plastic water bottle, balloons, sports jersey, Rubik's Cube, plastic toys



- Discuss what students noticed: what surprised them? What was confusing? What might have more than one answer? (e.g. The hamburger could be made of plant protein instead of beef.) How can we avoid using items that require taking more fossil fuels from the earth? (Buy used toys and clothes, use items made from sustainable materials like bamboo toothbrushes or wooden toys, choose purchases made from reusable materials e.g. metal water bottles instead of plastic, or reusable party decorations.)
- For math, compare the number of objects in each category ("more than", "less than", "equal to") and create bar graphs from the data.

PICTURES TO PRINT AND CUT OUT:



















































