



Earth's Resources

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Earth's Resources

▶ A Treasure Hunt	2
▶ Water	4
▶ Air	6
▶ Rocks	8
▶ Soil	10
▶ Glossary	12

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▶ A Treasure Hunt

Where are Earth's treasures? Earth's treasures are found in nature. They are called natural resources. A **natural resource** is anything from nature that people can use.

▶ Here are some natural resources.



▶ water

▶ soil

▶ animal



▸ Animals and plants are important parts of our world.

▸ Water and air are natural resources. Rock is a natural resource. Soil is a natural resource. Plants and animals are natural resources, too.



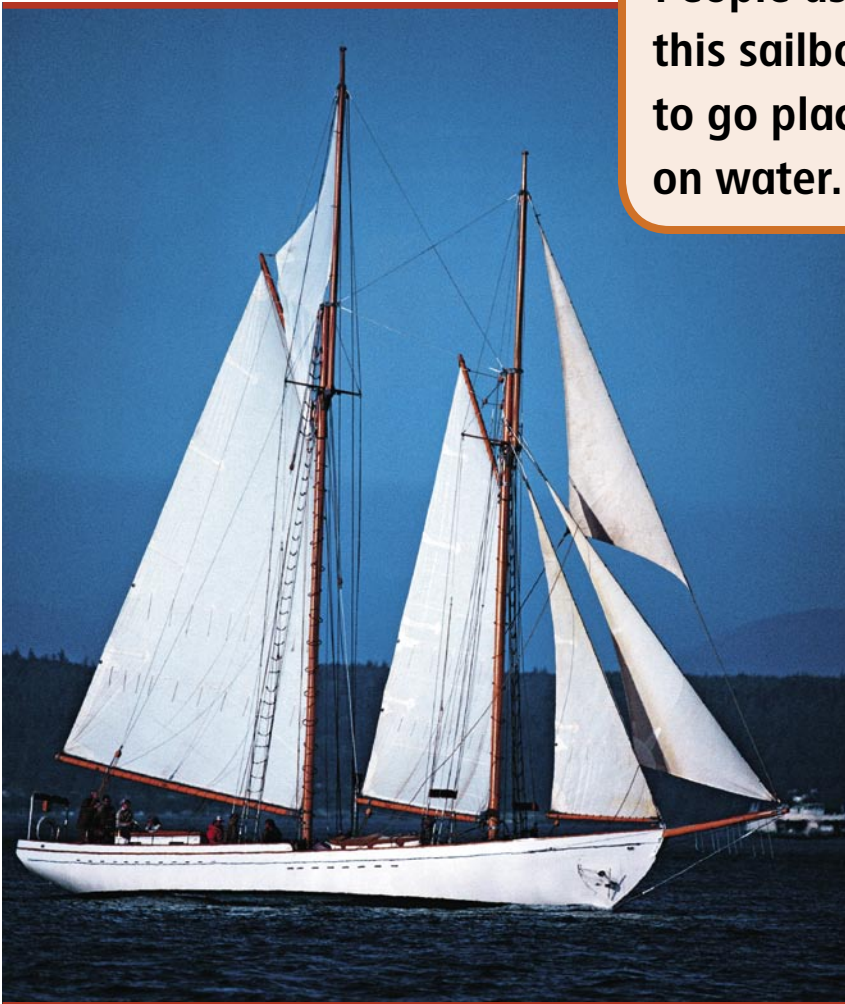
▸ **MAIN IDEA AND DETAILS** Name three natural resources.

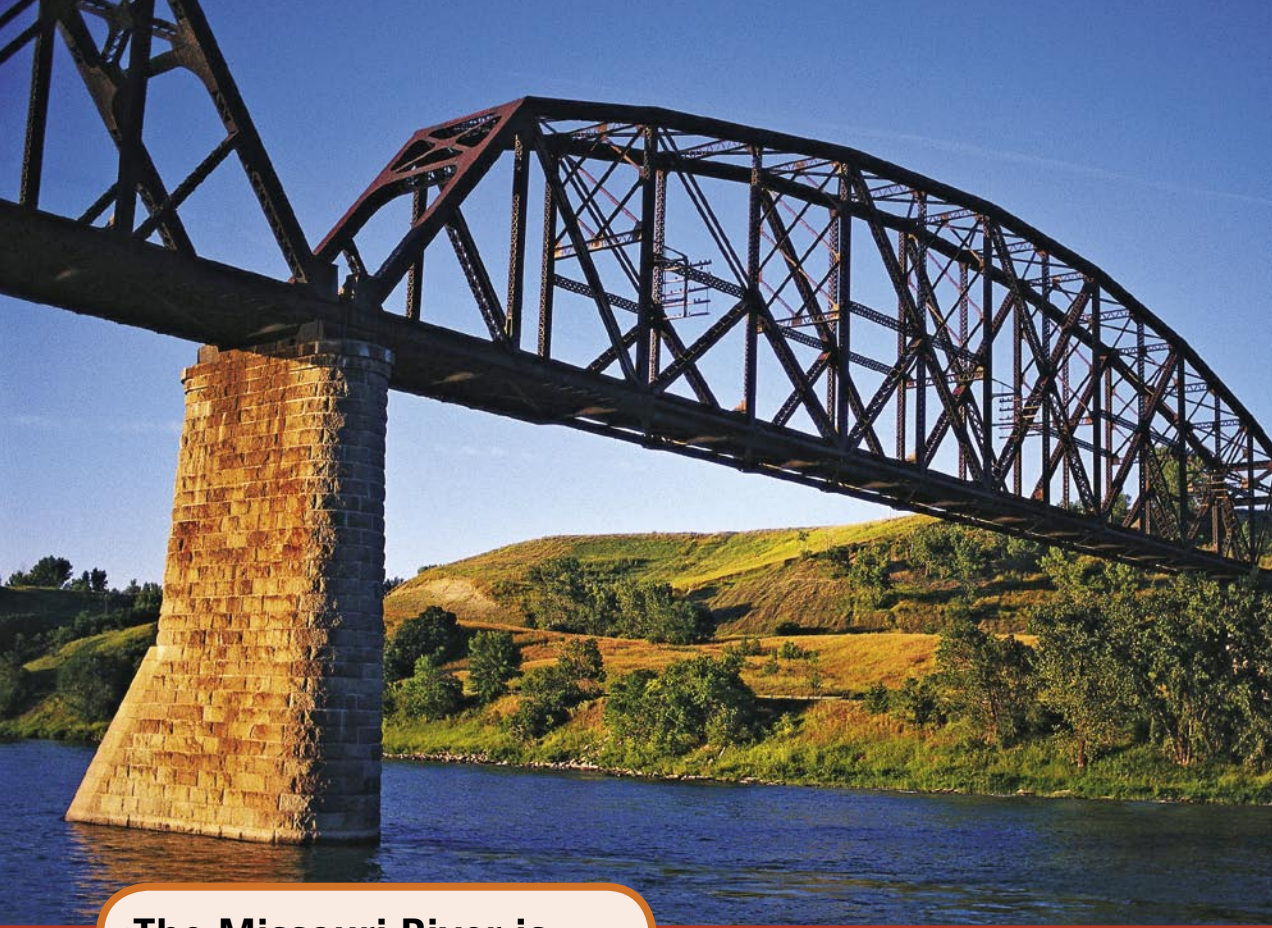
Water

Water is a natural resource. All living things need water to live. People drink water. Animals drink water, too.

People use water to wash. They cook with water. People also use water to go places.

People use this sailboat to go places on water.





▶ The Missouri River is one of the longest rivers in the United States.

▶ There is a lot of water on Earth. There is water in oceans, lakes, and rivers.

Fast Fact

▶ The Pacific Ocean is the largest body of water in the world.



▶ **MAIN IDEA AND DETAILS** What are two sources of water?

▸ Air

Air is a natural resource. Air is all around us, but we can not see it. Every living thing needs air to live. People breathe air. Animals breathe air.

▸ Air makes these windmills move.

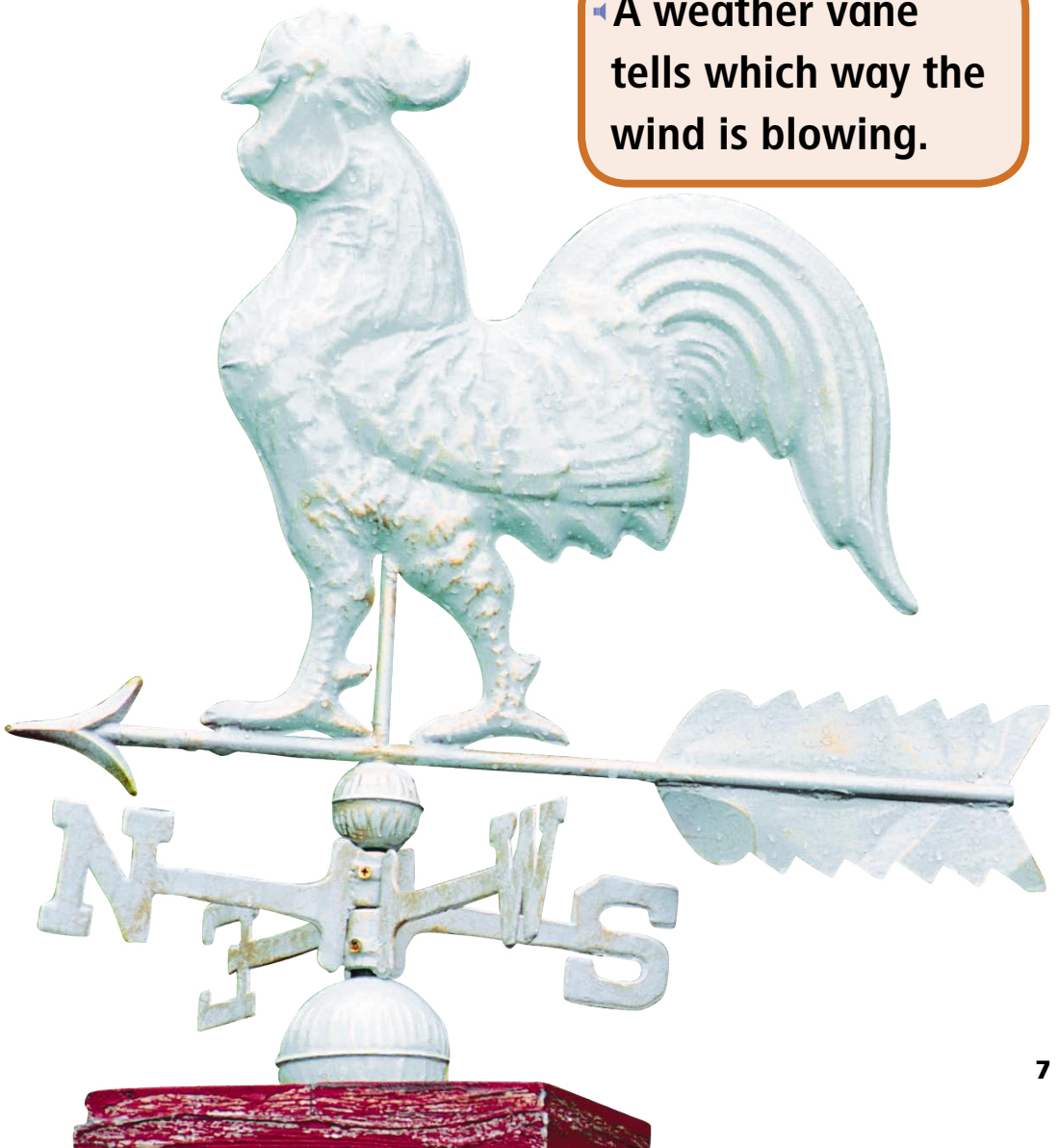


▶ Wind is moving air. Wind moves sailboats. This helps people to go places. Wind moves other things, too.



COMPARE AND CONTRAST How do animals use air? How do people use air?

▶ A weather vane tells which way the wind is blowing.



▶ **Rocks**

What are rocks? A **rock** is a hard thing that comes from Earth. It is not living. Rocks are a natural resource that people can use.

Fast Fact

▶ There are rocks in the ocean. There are even rocks on the moon!



▶ Rocks can be big or small.



▶ This house is made of rocks.

▶ We use rocks in many ways. Rocks give us salt. We cook with salt. We put it on our food.

▶ We can build with rocks. We can make walls with rocks. Some people carve rocks into statues.



COMPARE AND CONTRAST Compare ways you use rocks with ways other people use rocks.

Soil

Soil is the top layer of Earth. It is made of sand, humus, and clay.

◀ Sand and clay are made of small pieces of rock. **Humus** is made of pieces of dead plants and animals.

Fast Fact

◀ **Plant roots hold soil in place. They help to keep it from washing away.**

◀ **Sometimes you can find plant roots or small rocks in soil.**

▸ Some soil holds water. People use soil to grow plants to eat. Plants get water from soil.

▸ We need soil to grow vegetables and flowers.



▸  **CAUSE AND EFFECT** Why can you sometimes find parts of old plants in soil?


▸ **Summary**

Water, air, rocks, and soil are natural resources. People need natural resources to live.

▸ **Glossary**

- **humus** Pieces of dead plants and animals. Humus, clay, and sand make up soil. (10)
- **natural resource** Anything from nature that people can use (2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 11)
- **rock** A hard, nonliving thing that comes from Earth (2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11)
- **soil** The top layer of Earth, made of sand, humus, and clay (2, 3, 10, 11)

▶ **Think and Write**

- ▶ **1.** Tell what you know about natural resources.
- ▶ **2. COMPARE AND CONTRAST**
How are water and air alike and different?
- ▶ **3. MAIN IDEA AND DETAILS** What three things make up soil?
- ▶  **4.** Write a story about using one natural resource.

▶ **Hands-On Activity**

Work with a partner. Make a list of ten ways you use natural resources.

▶ **School-Home Connection**

Talk to a family member. Tell ways your family enjoys natural resources.