

Geography: How Sustainable Is Our Community?









Year 4 Spring 1

Key Facts and Vocabulary

Why should we learn about sustainability?

Natural resources are any materials that humans can make use of. They occur naturally due to the Earth's physical processes. Resources, such as energy, are important in our daily lives. However, natural resources are not distributed evenly around the world and many are finite, which means they will run out. This unit will teach you about the world's resources, where they are found and the importance of preserving them for the future – the act of living sustainably.

- **Sustainability or sustainable development** is using resources that are good for the people, the environment and the economy.
- **Energy** is the power that is used to provide heat, light or to operate machinery. It can be generated from renewable or non-renewable sources.
- **Fossil fuels** are a non-renewable fuel such as coal or gas, formed from the remains of living organisms. Burning them releases **greenhouse gases** into the atmosphere, which causes the planet to heat up.

Non-renewable sources of energy are finite. This means they will eventually run out.		Renewable sources of energy will not run out. However, the costs of building renewable energy sites are expensive.	
			
Coal	Oil	Solar energy	Wind energy
			
Natural gas	Nuclear energy	Geothermal energy	Biomass energy

Website Links

- <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/student-resources/>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/ztbwqty>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zshp34j/articles/zntxgwx>

Enquiry Questions

- What is sustainability?
- Where are the world's natural resources?
- How is energy produced?
- How much fossil fuel does the UK use?
- What's special about Samsø?
- How does the UK generate renewable energy?
- How sustainable is our community?
- How could our community be more sustainable?

Geographical Skills

- Carry out a survey to discover features of cities and villages.
- Label the same features on an aerial photograph as on a map.
- Explain how a locality has changed over time with reference to human features.
- Find different views about an environmental issue and express their view.

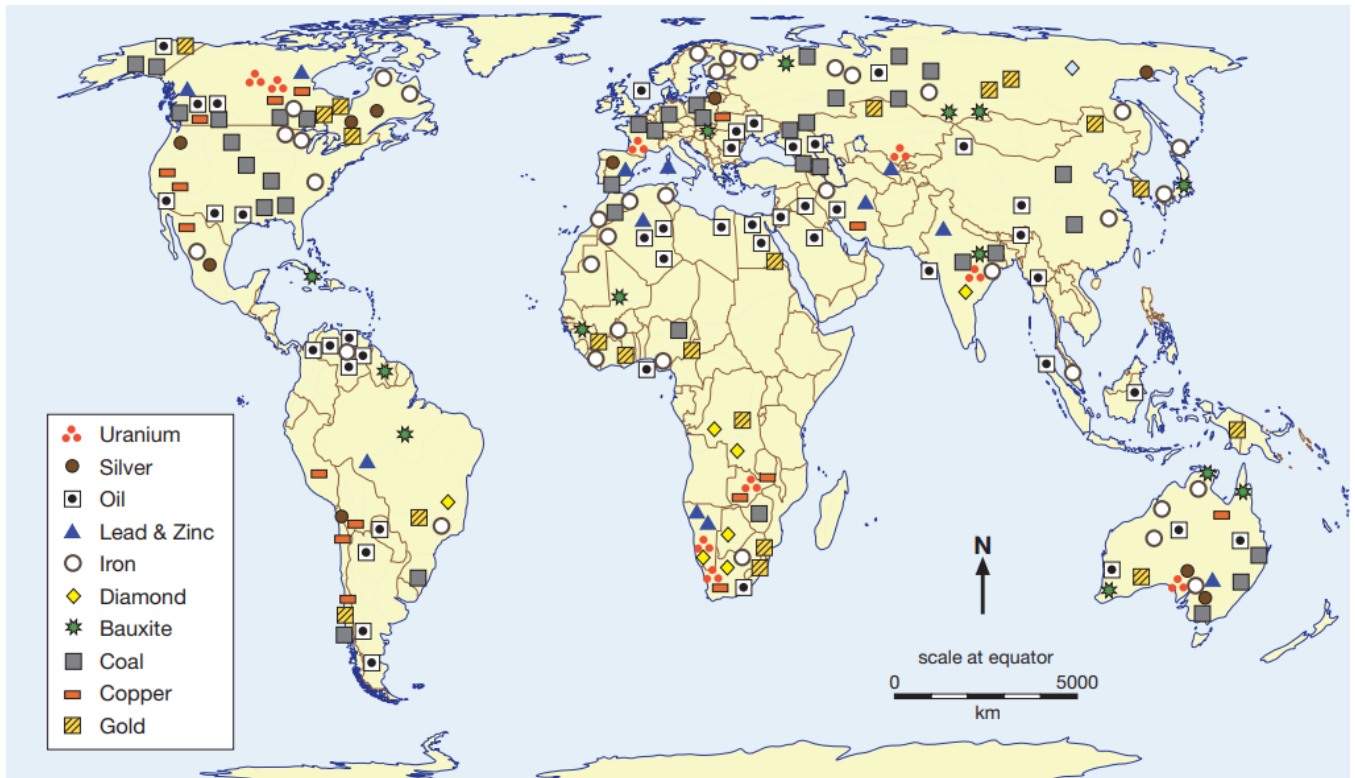
Geographical Concepts

Sustainability – exploring how we impact our own ecology and how injustice exists across communities and the world.
Environmental Geography – looking at how we use the natural world and how people have the ability to change it. Understanding how the environment supports and enriches human life by providing raw materials, food and resources.

Why don't you...

- Work out how much waste your household generates in a week, a month and a year?
- Create an action plan with your family to find ways of becoming a more sustainable household?
- Design a new housing estate? How would you supply power?

Map 1: Map of the World's Natural Resources



Map 2: Political Map of the World

