

NAME: _____

TAKE-HOME

DATE: _____

21. “Protecting the Environment Part I”

by Core Knowledge Staff

Today, I really need you to put on your thinking caps. You are very important to the future of planet Earth. Earth is your home. Conservation of Earth and its natural resources is very important. The everyday choices that you make in how to live your life can affect the health of the planet.

Humans can create unhealthy environments and cause disruptions to the balance of nature. We are dependent upon water and air to live, but we have done things to pollute both of these essential natural resources. We have many people on earth, and we have tapped into natural resources to try to support all of this life. What is a natural resource?

A resource is something that helps or supports you. If it is natural, it is something that is produced by nature. Natural resources are found in the environment. These include water, air, trees, fowl, and fish, but they also include things that are hidden beneath the ground, like minerals and oil. Air and water are renewable resources, meaning that they recycle themselves so that they are never used up. But, many natural resources are nonrenewable. They will not last forever. For example, it takes a long time for rich soil to form. The same is true of fossil fuels, like coal, oil, and gas. They take many, many years to form! So, you can see that if we use up all these natural resources, there will be nothing left for all the rest of the people who will follow us on the earth. It is important to remember that we are stewards of the earth. We must take care of Earth and its finite resources for our children and their children and so on.

Word Count: 285

NAME: _____

QUESTIONS

DATE: _____

Comprehension Questions

“Protecting the Environment Part I”

Assess each student’s comprehension of the selection by asking him or her to respond orally to the following questions one on one with you:

1. ***Inferential*** How do you affect the health of the planet?
 - » The everyday choices you make in how you live your life affect the health of the planet; humans pollute water and air, and once they are polluted, they cannot be replaced for the people who will follow us on the earth.
2. ***Literal*** What is a natural resource?
 - » something produced by nature that helps support you
3. ***Literal*** What is the difference between a renewable and nonrenewable resource?
 - » Renewable resources recycle themselves; nonrenewable resources will not last forever.
4. ***Inferential*** Why do we have to take care of Earth and its finite resources?
 - » Many resources are not renewable and won’t last forever so we must take care of them to make sure they last for the people that will follow us on the earth.