

Earth's Resources

Chapter 5 Vocabulary

Lesson 1 Minerals and Rocks

1. mineral – a solid, natural material made from nonliving substances in the ground.
2. luster – the way a mineral reflects light from its surface.
3. hardness – a measure of how well a mineral resists scratching.
4. sedimentary rock – a rock that forms from sediments
5. igneous rock – rock that forms from cooled and hardened lava.
6. metamorphic rock – a rock that forms when sedimentary and igneous rocks change under heat and pressure without melting.
7. rock cycle – the changing of rocks over time from one type to another

Lesson 2 Soil

1. soil – a mixture of bits of rock and once-living parts of plants and animals.
2. soil horizon – each layer of soil
3. humus – the part of the soil that is made of decayed organic materials
4. topsoil – the soil in the horizon
5. pollution – the addition of harmful materials to soil, air, or water
6. conservation – the preservation or protection of natural resources, including soil

Lesson 3 Natural Resources

1. fossil fuel – a material that formed from the remains of ancient organisms and is used today as a source of energy
2. nonrenewable resource – is one that can be used up faster than it is made
3. renewable resource – resourced that nature replaces relatively quickly
4. reservoir – an artificial lake that is built to store water

Lesson 4 Conservation

1. smog – air pollution that is caused by the burning of fossil fuels
2. ozone – a form of oxygen that protects living things on Earth's surface from the Sun's dangerous radiation
3. alternative energy source – any source of energy other than fossil fuels
4. recycle – to make new objects or materials from old objects or materials