

Natural Resource Consumption Research Project

Student Instructions

Background

This morning, you probably got out of a bed made of fibers, wood, and metal; put on clothes and shoes made of plant fibers, rubber, and maybe leather; ate breakfast of perhaps grain, fruit and milk; rode in a car made of metal and powered by gas; and arrived in a school built of stone, metal, concrete and many other materials. Your home and school use power from coal, nuclear, or hydroelectric power plants. Everything you do, and every move you make, is dependent on natural resources in some way.

In this project, you are going to research the impact of using a natural resource on the environment. You will use multiple resources including the Internet, American Field Guide video, and traditional research methods to gain information that will help you learn more about the environmental impact of natural resource use. While doing your research, think about other possibilities. Can we do without products produced by this resource? If not, are there ways that the environmental impact can be mitigated?

Instructions

- Step 1: Once you know your topic, start to do research. Use the www.pbs.org/afg website to find video footage showing some of the impacts related to your topic. Your teacher may have some video links for you to start with. Use the Internet and your library to find at least two other resources on your topic.
- Step 2: Consider the costs and benefits of using this resource. Make a chart like the following and consider what do we have to gain from your resource (e.g. food, clothes, etc.) and what are we losing by continuing to use this resource:

Costs	Benefits

- Step 3: Write a three-page paper explaining the following
 - How you use this resource in your life
 - Costs and benefits of consumption of this resource
 - Methods that can be used to lessen the problems associated with resource extraction
 - Your opinion: Is using this resource worth the cost to the environment (are you willing to do without it)?