

## Summary: Communities and Resources

### Natural Resources

The environment is the water, soil, air, plants, and living things around you. Plants, water, and the sun are natural resources. People use natural resources every day. For example, your pencil may be made of wood. Wood is a natural resource from trees.

There are three kinds of natural resources: renewable, nonrenewable, and flow. Renewable resources can be replaced. One example is vegetables. Farmers use vegetable seeds to grow more vegetables.

Nonrenewable resources, such as oil, cannot be replaced. People use oil for things such as fuel. The oil is gone forever after people use it. Flow resources are renewable resources that can only be used some of the time. Wind is a flow resource. When the wind doesn't blow, people can't use it.

### Communities Use Resources

When people use natural resources, they change the environment. In California, workers built a dam to stop the Feather River and make a lake. People used the water to make electricity, to drink, and to water their crops. But the lake destroyed places where fish and other animals lived. When people change the environment, they must be careful not to do harm. If we waste nonrenewable resources, they will run out quickly. People can conserve, or save, renewable resources by recycling. That means reusing things we have thrown out.

#### Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

**environment** *noun*, the water, soil, air, and living things around you

**natural resources** *noun*, things found in nature that are useful to people

**renewable resources** *noun*, resources that can be replaced

**nonrenewable resources** *noun*, resources that cannot be replaced

#### After You Read

**REVIEW** What is the difference between renewable and nonrenewable resources? Draw a box around sentences that tell about renewable and nonrenewable resources.

**REVIEW** Why should people conserve the resources in their communities? Circle the sentence that tells the answer.