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## Resources

### Lesson at a Glance

- Any substance, living being or service that has **utility** (*i.e.* can help us in any possible way) is said to be a **resource**.
- A resource has some **value**. The value can be associated with money (*i.e.* you have to pay money to get it), or just mental satisfaction (*e.g.* when you look at a beautiful painting or scenery, it feels pleasant, so the painting or scenery has utility).
- Examples of resources include books, stationery material, clothes, utensils, furniture, your teacher, school, rivers, water, electricity, and so on.
- The economic value of a resource may change with time.
- A substance may or may not be a resource depending on our knowledge. If we do not know how to write with a pen, then certainly the pen has no utility for us. So in this case the pen is not a resource. However, for those who know how to use a pen, it is a resource. So **technology, ideas, knowledge, inventions, discoveries**, etc make a substance a resource.
- Time may also be a factor involved in making a substance a resource. Water has always been there, but its utility to manufacture electricity was not always known. When people realised that water can be used to produce electricity, water became a resource in a new way.
- Resources may be **natural, human, or human-made**.
- **Natural resources** are those that are taken from nature. They are used without modifying them, *i.e.* in the same form as they exist in. Rivers, lakes, air, soils, minerals, trees, mountains, etc. are natural resources.
- On the basis of **level of development** of resource, a natural resource can be **actual** or **potential**. An actual resource is one which is used currently. We know their quantity. Examples are: coal deposits. A potential resource is one whose utility is not known at present or is not used despite having utility; instead it may be useful at some time in future. It means that it has the potential to have utility, although it does not have any today. Examples include uranium deposits in Ladakh.

- On the basis of **origin**, a resource can be **abiotic** or **biotic**. A biotic resource is one that has life. Examples: plants and animals. An abiotic resource is non-living. Examples: soils, rocks, furniture, books.
- Natural resources may also be classified as **renewable** and **non-renewable**. A renewable resource can be used without any risk of its ending up. They exist in unlimited quantity, for example solar energy and wind energy. On the other hand, use of non-renewable resources need to be controlled since once they end up, they cannot be renewed. Examples: coal, petroleum.
- On the basis of **distribution**, a resource can be ubiquitous or localised. A ubiquitous resource is found everywhere, like air. A localised resource is however found in certain parts of the world only, like we cannot find coal everywhere.
- **Human made resources** have not been provided to us by nature. Human beings have used their intelligence to manufacture them for their own use. Examples include vehicles, buildings, roads, telephone, etc.
- **Human resources** include people who serve us in any way. Your teacher, doctor, carpenter, cobbler, etc are human resources.
- **Human resource development** refers to the improvement of people's skills so that they become more useful than before and are a better resource.
- **Resource conservation** is the concept of using resources carefully so that they do not end up quickly. The future generations also need the resources, but if we keep using them at a fast pace, they may end up, thus posing problems for the future. We should use resources in such a balanced way that we satisfy our needs as well as conserve them for future. This concept is called **sustainable development**.
- We can contribute to sustainable development by switching off lights when not needed, by recycling things and using them again, and in many more ways.

### TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED

9. 1. Answer the following questions.
- Why are resources distributed unequally over the earth?
  - What is resource development?

- (iii) Why are human resources important?  
 (iv) What is sustainable development?

- Ans.** (i) The distribution of resources depends on various factors such as physical nature of the place. The physical factors include terrain, climate, height above sea level, etc. Since these factors vary in different parts of the world, resources are not distributed over the earth.
- (ii) Resource development is the method of utilising our intelligence in order to improve the quality, usability and utility of a resource.
- (iii) Human resources are important because they have an intelligent mind which can make best use of nature to create more resources. Had humans not been there, different substances would not have been resources. Their utility can only be realised by human beings.
- (iv) We should use resources in such a balanced way that we satisfy our needs as well as conserve them for future. This concept is called sustainable development.

**Q. 2.** Tick the correct answer.

- (i) Which one of the following does not make a substance a resource?  
 (a) utility (b) value  
 (c) quantity
- (ii) Which one of the following is a human-made resource?  
 (a) medicines to treat cancer (b) spring water  
 (c) tropical forests
- (iii) Complete the statement. Biotic resources are  
 (a) derived from living beings.  
 (b) made by human beings.  
 (c) derived from non-living things.

**Ans.** (i) (c), (ii) (a), (iii) (a).

**Q. 3.** Differentiate between the followings.

- (a) Potential and actual resources  
 (b) Ubiquitous and localised resources

**Ans. (a)**

Potential resources	Actual resources
1. A potential resource is not being used currently.	1. An actual resource is one which we use currently.
2. A potential resource can prove useful and become an actual resource in the future.	2. An actual resource might have been a potential resource in the past. It may end up in the future.
3. Examples: uranium deposits in Ladakh.	3. Examples: coal deposits.
4. The entire quantity of a potential resource may not be known.	4. The actual quantity of an actual resource is known.

**(b)**

Ubiquitous resources	Localised resources
1. A ubiquitous resource is one which is found all over the world.	1. A localised resource is one which is found in a particular region or physical condition.
2. Its presence is not governed by physical conditions.	2. The presence of a localised resource is governed by physical conditions.
3. Examples: air.	3. Examples: minerals.

**Q. 4.** Activity

"Rahiman paani raakhiye,

Bin paani sab soon.

Paani gaye na ubere

Moti, manus, choon..."

[Says Rahim, keep water, as without water there is nothing. Without water pearl, swan and dough cannot exist.]

These lines were written by the poet Abdur Rahim Khankhanam, one of the nine gems of Akbar's court. What kind of resource is the poet referring to? Write in 100 words what would happen if this resource disappeared?

- Ans.** The resource referred to by the poet is the water. It is one of the most indispensable resources of life. It can be said to be one of the preconditions of life, like air. Firstly water serves the most basic purpose of drinking,

without which life is not possible. In the absence of water, one would be unable to clean clothes, utensils, or even take a bath. Farmers depend on water for irrigation. Rainwater is so important for proper agriculture. Water is also used in cooking food. Nowadays water has proved to be a useful source of electricity. Besides human beings, plants require water for their growth. Water is also required for various industrial purposes in factories. In short, no form of life can go on without water.

