



Geography

Unit 1 - RESOURCES

Kuzhali was lying in her bed to see if her father would enter her room. She wanted her report card to be signed. There was no symptom of coming of her father. She jumped out of her bed and ran to her mother in the kitchen.

Kuzhali: Amma where is Appa?

Amma: Today he has 'overtime' and he has left early.

Kuzhali: "Overtime" what is that?

Amma: Your father's boss wants him to manufacture a few more solar panels because they have some urgent orders.

Kuzhali: He should have told me last night. My progress report has to be signed.

Amma: Enough of that. Now go have your bath. I'll sign your report this time.

Kuzhali: Amma, thank you ma. One more question. What does he make the solar panels from? Amma: Let me explain for you to understand. Silicon, extracted from sand, a natural resource, is used in making PV cells. These convert solar energy into electrical energy.

Kuzhali: Natural resource, what do you mean by it?

Amma: All things useful to man is resource. And if it is directly from nature we call it natural resource.

Kuzhali: Then what kind of work is Appa doing?

Amma: He is a manufacturer. He uses natural resources for manufacturing.

Kuzhali: Then, manufactured things be called as resources?

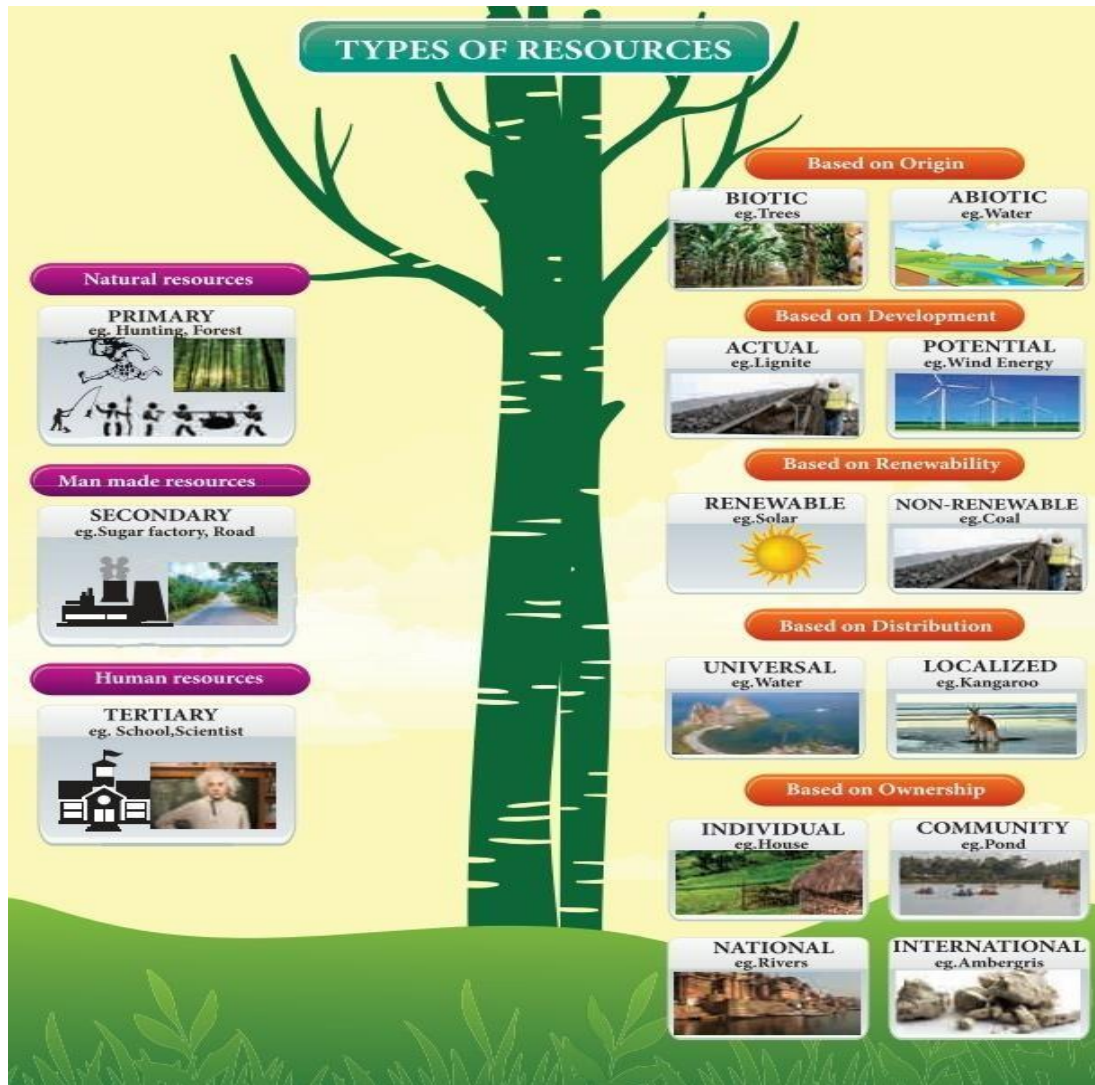
Amma: Yes, they are called as man made resources.

Kuzhali: Ok amma. It's getting late. Let me get ready.

Resource is anything that fulfills human needs. When anything is of some use it becomes valuable. All resources have value. The value can be either commercial or non-commercial. Commercial resources have great economic value. (e.g.) Petroleum.

The Non-commercial resources are very abundant in availability (e.g.) Air.

Resources can be natural, man-made and human resources.



### NATURAL RESOURCES:

All resources that have been directly provided by nature are called Natural resources. The air, water, soil, minerals, natural vegetation and wild life around us are all natural resources. The use of any natural resource depends on the place it is available, the form in which it is available and the technology necessary to avail it.



## CLASSIFICATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Natural resources can be classified into different groups depending on origin, development, renewability, distribution, ownership etc.

### A. ON THE BASIS OF ORIGIN:

On the basis of origin, resources can be classified into biotic and abiotic resources.

- All living resources are biotic resources, plants, animals and other micro organisms are biotic resources.



- Abiotic resources are non-living things. Land, water, air and minerals are abiotic resources. The biotic resources were mere substances till they were recognized by humans. According to the human needs the substances were collected by the ancient men and preserved for use. In the beginning, man had only three basic needs food, clothing and shelter. He collected things through primary activities such as hunting, food gathering, fishing and forestry.

Later when food became scarce, they had to cultivate and that became agriculture and the cattle were also reared on their farms to fulfill their basic needs.





The abiotic resources were also sought after by the early men. They went in search of better landforms where they had enough water resources for agriculture and their cattle.

They were in need of tools right from hunting to agriculture. Primarily the tools were only made of stones. Later man dug the earth for better abiotic resources and found copper first and iron later.

He also mined precious metals simultaneously for making ornaments. Later mining became one of the leading primary activities and still holds an important place among the economic activities.