



The Nature of Our Stuff

This activity is designed to make students aware that the materials we use come from the natural world. The aim is for students to realise that it is important to ensure we're using **natural resources sustainably**. This is crucial because humans have been extracting A LOT of resources from our planet. Uncontrolled extraction can **damage ecosystems**, cause pollution, and even deplete the resources themselves. By managing natural resources sustainably, we can ensure that future generations will be able to benefit from them too.

In this activity, students are asked to identify **3 things** that are made from each of the **natural resources** provided: trees, sand, clay, animals, and metal. You can print out one handout per student or have them make their own.

We also encourage class discussions about the importance of treating these natural resources with respect and ensuring they are used/managed sustainably.

Examples of natural resources and what we use them for

Trees - clothes, food, medicine, furniture

Sand - glass, concrete, silica, zen gardens, artificial beaches/islands

Clay - roofing, bricks, pottery, floor tiles

Animals - food, research, leather, cosmetics

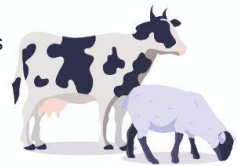
Metal - building materials, containers, bicycles, electronics

Air - to breathe, energy

Sunlight - to grow our food, energy

Soil - to grow our food

Water - to keep us hydrated and alive



Following the activity, we recommend discussing with your students what can happen if we **use too much** of a resource and how this can happen. For example, sometimes we cut down trees and don't plant new ones to replace them. This means animals who need the trees can lose their homes. If we use too much of a resource we risk **running out** or **harming** other living things that also need that resource.

We also recommend mentioning to your students that it's important that when we take natural resources we are kind to all the **plants** and **animals** that call those places home. Lastly, remind them to not be wasteful and only use what we really need!

We welcome feedback and would be delighted to hear your thoughts on this activity. Feel free to send an email to schools@climatescience.org and we'll be sure to get back to you soon :)