Natural Resource Vocabulary

**Natural Resources**- any useful material found in the environment

**Raw Material**-a resource or material that is still in its natural state, before being processed or manufactured into a useful product

**Recyclable Resource**-a resource that cycles through natural processes in the environment (water, nitrogen, carbon)

**Renewable Resource**-a natural resource that the environment continues to supply or replace as it is used (trees, water)

**Nonrenewable Resource**-a resource that cannot be replaced once it is used; they include fossil fuels such as coal and oil, and minerals such as iron, copper, and gold

**Fossil Fuel**-any one of several nonrenewable resources created from the remains of plants and animals

**Developed Nations**-are those countries that have many industries

**Developing Nations**-are those countries that have few industries.

**Ecosystem**-is a place where living elements depend on one another—and on nonliving elements—for their survival.

**Acid Rain**- rain that carries dangerous chemicals

**Pollution** -Waste dumped into rivers, lakes, and oceans destroys or harms living things in the water and also endangers people.

**Ozone Layer**-, a layer of gas in the upper part of our atmosphere, blocks most of the sun’s harmful ultraviolet rays

**Global Warming**-is a slow increase in Earth’s temperature.

**Greenhouse Effect**-scientists theory that greenhouse gases trap the heat and reflect it back to Earth, resulting in a rise in Earth’s average temperature.

**Human Resource**-produced by man

**Capital Resource**-the result of combining natural and human resources to create an economic system.

**Capital**-means money

**Infrastructure**- refers to systems that keep a country going such as government, schools, water, electric, sanitation, roads, bridges and communication networks.

**Nuclear Energy-** the energy released during nuclear fission or fusion, esp. when used to generate electricity.

**Hydroelectric Power**-process of producing electric through the process of using flowing water

**Geothermal Power**-energy derived from the heat in the interior of the earth

**Solar Energy**-getting energy from collecting the suns radiant energy