

What Is Sustainability?

What Sustainability Means

The word 'sustainability' means keeping things at the level that they are now. It means that there isn't too much of something but that we don't run out of it either.

We often see the word 'sustainability' used when we are talking about being kind to our planet. Thinking about sustainability in this way means that humans must interact with the environment in a way that does not use all of Earth's resources. This is so that there are things left for people in the future.



Did You Know...?

Scientists think that there will be no fossil fuels left on Earth by 2060.



Infinite or Finite?

Some of Earth's resources are infinite. This means that we have an endless supply of them because they can always be made again. Solar panels supply us with infinite energy because the Sun will shine for as long as humans exist.

Some of the resources on Earth are finite. This means that we will never be able to replace them once they have been used up. Fossil fuels are finite because there is no way that they can be made again while humans are alive.

Electricity



A lot of the electricity that we use today has been made using fossil fuels like coal and natural gas. In fact, less than 30% of the electricity made worldwide is sustainable. We must think of other ways to power our homes, schools and workplaces so that we do not use up all of the fossil fuels on Earth. Using the heat and light of the Sun and the movement of the waves are two sustainable ways of making electricity instead.

There are lots of humans on Earth and that means that we must produce a lot of food to feed them. Forests around the world are being cut down to make way for fields to grow crops on. This is called deforestation. Deforestation means that forest plants and animals have nowhere to live and might disappear forever. We must think of more sustainable ways to make food.

Forests



Waste



Humans throw away lots of things each day. These items go to places called landfills and this is where they might sit forever. We must think about:

- Can I reuse or recycle this thing instead of throwing it away?
- Do I really need to buy this item? What will I do with it when I don't need it anymore?
- Can I find food with less packaging so that I am not making as much waste?

Glossary

fossil fuels: Fuels like coal and gas that were formed from plants and animals that lived millions of years ago.

Questions

1. In which section am I most likely to find out information about things that are thrown away? ~~Tick one.~~ Write your answers to all the questions in your book. No need to copy the questions in your book
- ☐ Forests
 - ☐ ~~Waste~~
 - ☐ Electricity
 - ☐ Infinite or Finite?
2. What are fossil fuels formed from? ~~Tick two.~~
- ☐ ancient stone
 - ☐ ancient plants
 - ☐ ancient oil
 - ☐ ancient animals
3. Why do you think that the author has included questions in the section that is called Waste? ~~Tick one.~~
- ☐ because it is a test to see if you know the answers
 - ☐ because they want the reader to think about their own answers
 - ☐ because they have been told to ask other people
 - ☐ because the author needs advice
4. Draw four lines and match each term to what it means.

Write your answers in your book

sustainability

infinite

deforestation

landfills

in endless supply

cutting down forests

places where items go when they have been thrown away

keeping things at the level that they are now

Questions

Complete answers in your book no need to copy questions

5. Look at the section called Infinite or Finite?

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'get more'.

6. Fill in the missing word and the missing number.

Scientists think that there will be no fossil _____ left on Earth by _____.

7. **It means that there isn't too much of something but that we don't run out of it either.**

Why would it be bad to have 'too much of something'?

8. Do you think that Earth's infinite resources or Earth's finite resources are more valuable? Explain your answer.
