

# GEOGRAPHY



## Resources

- Any commodity which is used to satisfy human wants is known as a **resource**. Paper, trees and water are resources.
- Resources have usability as they are used by us. Thus, resources have **utility**. For example, paper has utility as it is used for writing.
- Resources have worth or **value**. They have value because they satisfy human needs. For example, coal has value because it is used for generating electricity.
- Two factors which can change substances into resources are **time** and **technology**. For example, with the help of technology, fast-moving water can be used for generating electricity.

### Types of Resources

Resources are classified into natural, human-made and human.

Substances which occur in nature and are used for satisfying human wants are known as **natural resources**. Natural resources can be classified into the following categories on the basis of

Origin	Biotic and abiotic resources	<p><b>Biotic Resources:</b> These resources are obtained from nature and have life. Examples: Humans, forests, fisheries, livestock</p> <p><b>Abiotic Resources:</b> These resources are obtained from nature but are made of non-living things. Examples: Metals, air, soil</p>
Exhaustibility	Renewable and non-renewable resources	<p><b>Renewable Resources:</b> These resources are available in plenty in nature and can be replenished. Examples: Sunlight, wind, water</p> <p><b>Non-renewable Resources:</b> These resources are present in nature and are formed after millions of years. These resources are limited in stock. They can be exhausted or depleted after a particular period of time. Examples: Coal, petroleum</p>
Distribution	Ubiquitous and localised resources	<p><b>Ubiquitous Resources:</b> Resources which are found everywhere are known as ubiquitous resources. Examples: Sunlight, water</p> <p><b>Localised Resources:</b> Resources which are found only at certain places are known as localised resources. Example: Petroleum</p>
Status of development	Actual and potential resources	<p><b>Actual Resources:</b> Resources whose quantity is known is called actual resources. Example: Coal deposits in Hazaribagh in Jharkhand</p> <p><b>Potential Resources:</b> Resources whose quantity is not known and they are not being used at present. Example: Uranium present in Ladakh is a potential resource which could be used in the future.</p>

## Human-made Resources

Human-made resources are altered by humans for their own use. For example, iron is used by people to build railways, road bridges, machinery and vehicles. Technology is also considered a human-made resource as it is a result of constant human thinking and innovation.

## Human Resources

Humans are themselves considered resources as they use their knowledge, skill and technology to either create new resources or to put other resources into use. **Human resource development** is the efforts made to improve the quality of skills of people to create more resources.

## Conservation of Resources

It is important to conserve resources as many resources are scarce and take millions of years to develop. To use resources carefully and to give time to renew them is known as **conservation of resources**.

The principle of sustainable development should be followed while utilising resources. Sustainable development is the careful use of resources to meet the requirements of not only the present generation but also the future generations. Some common ways in which we can conserve resources are

- Not waste paper
- Switch off fans and lights when not in use
- Use water carefully
- Harvest water
- Reduce consumption, recycle and reuse waste materials