

FANTASTIC FOSSIL FUELS



INTRODUCTION

Fossil fuels are the most used energy resource on earth. But coal, oil and gas are nonrenewable fuels and have the potential to pollute and damage our environment. How can we use fossil fuels more responsibly?

FOSSIL FUELS - WHAT ARE THEY?

Fossil fuels are a source of **non-renewable energy**. They develop in the ground when dead plants and animals decompose over millions of years. They are considered non-renewable resources because it would be impossible to make more in our lifetime. Commonly used fossil fuels are oil, coal and natural gas.

WHY DO WE NEED THEM?

Fossil fuels provide a very efficient form of energy. **Fossil fuels** are used to **fuel** cars and airplanes, power electricity plants, and heat our homes. They are also used to make medicines, cosmetics, plastics, synthetic fabrics, and lubricants. When you brushed your teeth today, you used a product made from oil – toothpaste!

COAL, OIL AND GAS

Oil: Found underground in reservoirs and is used to make gasoline and plastic.

Natural Gas: A form of methane that is found in pockets under the ground.

Coal: is found rocks under the ground.

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ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Fossil fuels are very useful to people and we seem to have an abundance of them! We **MUST** use them responsibly. Fossil fuels are nonrenewable and we could run out of them one day! They also can cause pollution when they are burned. Some people have started extracting oil from underneath the oceans, which sometimes leads to oil spills, which can cause great damage to the environment and other natural resources, such as water, plants and animals.

FOSSIL FUELS - OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

Fossil fuels are convenient and seemingly readily available, but to conserve them people need to use other types of renewable energy instead. Wind and solar power can be used as alternate sources of power instead. Big companies need to find ways to burn these fuels more efficiently to reduce the amount of air pollution they can cause. Finally, many conservationists believe that we should not be drilling into the ocean to get out the oil. They believe it is not worth the risk. Many oil spills have already occurred.

CONCLUSION

Fossil fuels are amazing and so useful for human beings! If we wish to continue to enjoy and use them, we need to find ways to do so responsibly, so that we do not waste them or damage the environment by using them.