



Dear Parents,

In this nine weeks, students are expected to identify and classify Earth's renewable resources, nonrenewable resources, and the importance of resource conservation. We will also collect and analyze data to identify sequences and predict patterns of change in shadows, seasons, and the observable appearance of the Moon over time. Finally, we will look at the patterns in the weather cycles, and the connection between the Sun and the water cycle.

**The concepts students are expected to master:**

- Renewable resources include air, plants, water, and animals, which are generally replaceable within a lifetime, nonrenewable resources include coal, oil, and natural gas, which cannot be replaced within a lifetime.
- We should make responsible decisions to conserve both renewable and nonrenewable resources.
- We can collect and analyze data to predict patterns of change observable on Earth.
- Shadows and seasons depend on the position of the Earth in relation to the Sun.
- The Moon's appearance changes in the same pattern each month and can be predicted.
- Tools such as rain gauges, wind socks, and thermometers can be used to gather weather data and can be recorded on tables, graphs, and weather maps.
- Water on the Earth is continuously moving through the water cycle.
- Water moves through the water cycle in the atmosphere as humidity, clouds, and precipitation. Water also moves in oceans, rivers, lakes, and glaciers.
- The Sun is the major source of energy that moves water through the water cycle.
- Producers make their own food, and consumers are dependent on other organisms for their food.
- Energy that flows through food webs begins with the Sun.
- Changes in an ecosystem can affect a food web.

You can help your student master this nine weeks' concepts by looking at the world around you and asking questions from the list above. Look up to the sky nightly and observe the moon. Discuss the changes you are observing. Identify producers and consumers that you come across, and identify how they rely on the Sun. We look forward to working together with you to help your student succeed.

Please contact us if you have questions on how you can further support your student's learning.

Sincerely,

The Fourth Grade Team

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