



West Virginia's Natural Resources: Which is Most Valuable?

Objective: Students will learn about the state's natural resources by comparing and contrasting them.

GRADE LEVEL

Fourth Grade

TIME REQUIRED

45 minutes

ASSESSMENT

The silent debates will be graded for content, understanding, and mechanics/grammar.

MATERIALS NEEDED

1. *e-WV*
2. Supplemental materials about West Virginia's resources
3. Paper and pencil

IMPORTANT ARTICLES RELATED TO NATURAL RESOURCES

1. Natural Resources: www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1603
2. Coal: www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1334
3. Natural Gas and Petroleum: www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1600
4. Forests: www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2029
5. Soils of West Virginia: www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/509
6. Water: www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/906
7. Fish: www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2181
8. Wildlife: www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1261

LESSON PROCEDURES

1. Teacher will introduce the state's natural resources. Students will be instructed to research a particular resource.
2. Students will use 15 minutes to become experts about their particular resource. The focus question is: Why is this the most valuable resource for West Virginia?
3. Students will work in pairs silently debating which resource is the most valuable for our state.
4. During the silent debate, students will pass one piece of paper back and forth. They will each make the points for their topic in the debate. For example, a pair of students may have coal



and water to debate. One will debate why coal is more valuable than water, and the other will debate why water is more valuable than coal. One of the students will have to concede, leaving them with one item/resource per pair of students.

5. In closing, the teacher will highlight important aspects of each resource. Then the students will share which resource “won” in their debates. They will tally this information on the board and select a final “winner.” Further debate as a class will cause students to justify and defend the class findings.

WEST VIRGINIA NEXT GENERATION CONTENT STANDARDS AND OBJECTIVES

SOCIAL STUDIES-WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY

SS.4.17 Analyze the impact of West Virginia’s geography on transportation, settlement, jobs, clothing, food, shelter, services and interaction with others outside the state.

SS.4.19 Pose, research and answer student-generated questions relating to West Virginia (e.g., primary source documents, magazines, online resources, etc.).

DSS.3-5.7 Develop Learning Skills

- Work collaboratively to solve problems, complete tasks, and/or investigate topics of interest.
- Explore a variety of learning opportunities within the classroom and home environment.
- Maintain concentration over a reasonable amount of time despite distractions and interruptions.
- Independently complete routines and learning tasks.

DSS.3-5.3 Exhibit Respectful Behavior

- Use and accept negotiation and compromise to resolve conflicts.

