

UNIT 02 / 06 · LEARN & TRY

Resources, soil and sustainable choices

Name: _____ Date: _____

Goal: Reason about resource planning and select soil conservation responses.

Learn

A resource is useful because people can access and use it through knowledge, technology and institutions. Availability alone does not guarantee fair or sustainable use. Renewable resources can regenerate, but extraction faster than renewal can still cause depletion. Nonrenewable resources form over very long periods and require careful conservation. Resource planning combines an inventory, suitable technology and institutions with broader development goals. Soil illustrates why these links matter. Erosion removes fertile material through flowing water or wind, while poor land management can accelerate the process. Contour ploughing reduces runoff on slopes; shelter belts slow wind; controlled grazing helps vegetation recover. Measures must suit local conditions rather than follow a single universal recipe. Assess a proposal by asking what resource it uses, who benefits, what environmental cost it creates and whether future users retain access. Sustainable development connects these questions rather than measuring success only by immediate output.

Worked example

Original fictional scenario: A sloping farm loses topsoil after heavy rain. Contour cultivation and vegetative barriers slow runoff; simply increasing fertiliser does not stop the physical loss of soil.