

SOL 4.9 EARTH RESOURCES**Question/Answer Packet**

The student will investigate and understand important Virginia natural resources. Key concepts include:

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1. What are natural resources?	Things found in nature that can be used by people to satisfy life’s needs. Earth’s natural resources include air and water, plants and animals, soil and rocks, and fossil fuels.	
2. What are examples of Virginia’s natural resources?	Forests give us lumber for homes, furniture, and pulp for paper Minerals give us coal, sand, & rocks for energy & building materials	Waterways streams, rivers, bays and the ocean Wildlife including fish, blue crabs, bears, & thousands of species Rich soil (farmland) good soil to grow crops & raise livestock
3. What are human resources?	The people and their skills used to produce and provide goods and services in an economy. Examples: farmers, miners, fishermen, & builders	
4.9a) watersheds and water resources (distinguish among rivers, lakes, and bays; describe characteristics of each; and name an example of each in Virginia)		
4. Aquifer	Pockets or holes deep underground that are filled with water that has seeped into the soil.	
5. Reservoir	A large man-made lake where water is collected and stored. Examples: Smith Mountain Lake & Lake Anna	
6. River	Long, ribbon-like waterways that usually flow toward an ocean. Rivers are fed by precipitation, snowmelt, or water from beneath the Earth’s surface. Examples: James River, York River, Rappahannock River, & Potomac River	
7. Tributary	A stream that feeds a larger stream, river or lake	
8. Estuary	A place where salt water from the ocean mixes with freshwater from rivers and streams & provides a unique habitat for a wide range of plants & animals. The Chesapeake Bay watershed is the largest estuary in the United States.	
9. Bay	A large body of water that is surrounded by land on 3 sides. Some bays have a small channel that connects them to a larger body of water, such as an ocean Example: Chesapeake Bay	
10. Lake	A large inland body of water. Almost all lakes hold fresh water and are fed and drained by small rivers or streams. Only 2 natural lakes in Virginia: Lake Drummond & Mountain Lake	
11. Ocean	Immense bodies of salt water. There are five of them. They cover more than 70% of the Earth’s surface.	
12. Watershed	An area of land where all the water above and below ground flows to the same place.	
13. Watershed Address	A watershed address begins with the closest body of water (creek, stream, or river) to your home, followed by the next body of water it links to. This linking process continues until the water reaches a major river, large bay, and finally, for Virginia watershed addresses, the Atlantic Ocean or the Gulf of Mexico.	

4.9c) minerals, rocks, ores, and energy sources (recognize the importance of Virginia's mineral resources, including coal, limestone, granite, and sand and gravel.)

**14. Five Rocks form
Virginia**

Coal: fossil fuel

Limestone: crushed & used for construction

Granite: Hard- used for buildings, monuments, & countertops

Sand: When melted at high heat can be used for making glass & ceramics

Gravel: Different rocks, broken down together & used for road construction



Coal

The number one fossil fuel used for energy in Virginia. It is a hard rock made of ancient pressed plant material that burns easily.

Limestone

Crushed, it is used for the construction of asphalt roads. It is also ground up to make cement.

Granite

A very hard, strong, long-lasting stone that is used for buildings, floors, monuments, and kitchen countertops.

Sand

When melted at very high heat, quartz sand turns into a liquid that is then used in making glass, ceramics, and in construction.

Gravel

An assortment of different rocks that have been broken down into very small pieces. Gravel is used in driveways and road construction.