

# CHAPTER 2

**I**n the last chapter, you learned that a group of organisms within an environment are known as a population. You also learned that most of the living organisms in these populations:

- use food
- grow
- react to changes in their environment
- reproduce
- breathe
- and move

**These  
things  
make an  
organism  
alive!**



All organisms need biotic (living) and abiotic (nonliving) resources in order to stay alive. The biotic resources organisms need would include nutrients and food. Air and water are abiotic resources that organisms must also have to stay alive.

So far, we have been looking at what you **NEED** for an organism to survive. A **NEED** is something you must have in order to stay alive like air, water and nutrients.

There are times I feel that I **have** to eat some chocolate, but that is not something I need. That feeling is called a **WANT**. I may **WANT** to eat a whole bowl of chocolate, but I do not **NEED** chocolate to survive. I **NEED** things like vegetables and fruits to survive!

A **WANT** is something that you do not have to use to survive, but you would still like to have it.

NEEDS and WANTS are alike in one important way...

Our  
**WANTS**  
use  
resources  
just like  
our  
needs!



Remember that resources are the basic things that a group of similar organisms (population) can use everyday.

(I'm sorry for saying this again... but it is really important!)

We **NEED** air, water and food to survive. But, now and then, I still **WANT** to eat a bowl of ice cream. Do I **NEED** the ice cream? No. Do I **WANT** the ice cream? Oh yeah!

**Now we are going to look at where these resources come from....**

All resources can be split into two groups:

**Material resources** - These are resources you can touch. Gas for a car, wood for building homes and food are all resources that you can touch. The rule is: If you can touch it and use it, you would call it a material resource.

and...

**Nonmaterial resources** - These are resources that you cannot touch. Happiness, peace, feelings of safety and love are all nonmaterial resources. You may not be able to touch them, but they are all things you need!

Material resources (things you can touch) can be split into two groups:

# Renewable resources and Nonrenewable resources

A **renewable resource** is a resource that can be made again. Living organisms are all renewable resources. They are also material resources...because you can touch them, can't you?

The food we eat or the wood for building homes can be made again, or renewed. An apple tree will make apples every year, right?!?! Of course it does! If the apple tree dies, the apple seeds can be used to make new trees! The

dead tree can be cut down and a new apple tree can be planted. After the tree is cut down, the wood from it can be used to build homes.



Renewable resources are very important to living organisms. Without renewable resources, we would quickly use everything up in the environment. If the environment is used up, we would not be able to survive.

**Nonrenewable resources** are also very important to living organisms. These resources take a long time to be made again (thousands of years). Sometimes it cannot be made again at all! The gas you put in a car would take thousands of years to be made again. Because gas will take so long to make again, it is a nonrenewable resources.





Match the words in the first column to the best available answer in the second column.

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| — Material resources     | 1) resources you can touch like gas and wood and food                              |
| — Need                   | 2) a resource that can be made again like living organisms                         |
| — Nonmaterial resources  | 3) resources that can take a long time to be made again (thousands of years!)      |
| — Nonrenewable resources | 4) resources that you cannot touch like happiness and peace and feelings of safety |
| — Renewable resource     | 5) anything you feel like having that is not a need                                |
| — Want                   | 6) something you must have in order to stay alive like air and water and nutrients |



**Draw a picture of your home. Be certain to include everything you need to survive in your drawing. You may also add many of your wants in your drawing too!**

**Label everything in your picture as either a need or a want.**