25SCHOOLS

FREE LEARNING NOTES FOR ZAMBIA

GRADE 2 · TERM 1

Mathematics

Grouping things

Lesson notes for learners · Competence-Based Curriculum

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There are many things around us. Some are alive and some are not. We can put things into groups by looking at how they are the same and how they are different. In this note you will group natural things and learn what it means to be a member of a group.

AFTER THESE NOTES YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO

- Name natural resources around us
- Group natural resources by their kind
- Say when a thing is a member of a group and when it is not
- Use the signs for is a member of and is not a member of

KEY WORDS

Natural resource	A thing in the environment that is not made by people, such as a plant, an animal or water.
Set	A group of things that belong together.
Member	One thing that belongs to a set.
Mineral	A hard natural material found in the ground.

1 Natural resources around us

Take a walk around your school or your village. Look at the things you see. Some things are natural. They are not made by people. Plants, animals, water, land and rocks are natural resources.

Be careful on the walk. Your teacher will check the place first. Do not pick up anything that can hurt you. You can take pictures and collect a few safe things to look at in class.

Ask yourself these questions. What things do I see. How can I group them. Which things are natural and which are made by people. Which are living and which are not living. Why do we need natural resources. How can we take care of them.

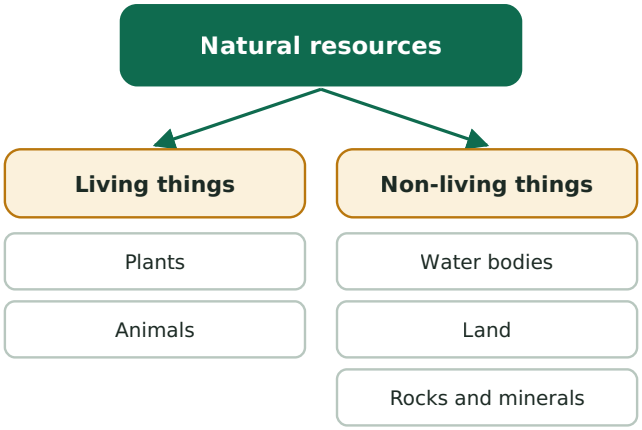

Figure 1. Groups of natural resources

2 Grouping natural resources

Sort pictures of natural resources into groups. You can use a chart with columns for animals, water bodies, plants, minerals and land. Say why each group is different from the others.

Animals are living things. They move on their own, breathe and feed. Water bodies are natural places where water is found, such as a river, a stream, a pond or a dam. They are not living. Plants are living things that grow in the soil and make their own food using sunlight. They have roots, a stem and leaves. Rocks and minerals are hard natural materials in the ground. They are not living. Land is the hard surface of the Earth.

There are other ways to make groups. You can group things as living or non-living. You can group them by what we use them for, such as things for food or things for energy.

Group	Examples
Animals	Birds, insects, goats, dogs
Plants	Trees, grass, flowers
Water bodies	River, stream, pond, dam
Rocks and minerals	Stones

Figure 2. Groups of natural resources

3 Members of a set

A set is a group of things. Each thing in the set is a member of the set. Play the I belong game. Three big circles are drawn on the ground. They are for animals, plants and water bodies. Each child holds a name card such as cow, river, mango tree or lake. When your card is called, say I am a member of the set of animals, and move into the right circle.

Now ask: Is a rock a member of the set of animals. No. A rock is not a member of the set of animals. Is a river a member of the set of water bodies. Yes.

We use signs for this. The sign ∈ means is a member of. The sign ∉ means is not a member of. Take Set A, a basket of fruits with a banana, an orange and a guava. An orange is a member of Set A. A toy car is not a member of Set A. Think about numbers too. A number can be a member of a set of numbers or not.

TRY THIS

Look outside your house. Find four natural things. Say which group each one belongs to. Then say one thing that is a member of the set of plants and one thing that is not a member of that set.

REMEMBER

- Natural resources are things in the environment that people did not make
- We can group natural resources as animals, plants, water bodies, rocks and minerals, and land
- A thing that belongs to a set is a member of the set
- The sign ∈ means is a member of and the sign ∉ means is not a member of

? Check yourself

1. Name two natural resources.
2. Is a river a member of the set of water bodies.
3. What does the sign ∈ mean.

4. What does the sign $\notin$ mean.
5. On a nature walk Chanda sees a goat, a mango tree, a pond and a stone. His teacher asks him to sort them. (a) Which one is an animal. (b) Which one is a water body. (c) Is the goat a member of the set of plants.
6. In the I belong game three circles are drawn for animals, plants and water bodies. Mutinta holds the card lake and Bwalya holds the card cow. (a) Which circle should Mutinta go into. (b) Which circle should Bwalya go into. (c) Is a cow a member of the set of water bodies.

ANSWERS

1. Any two of: plants, animals, water bodies, land, rocks and minerals.
2. Yes.
3. Is a member of.
4. Is not a member of.
5. (a) The goat. (b) The pond. (c) No, the goat is not a member of the set of plants.
6. (a) Water bodies. (b) Animals. (c) No.

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