

Natural Resources in the USA
Discussion Guide
Grades 3rd – 7th

Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.

- Preview the title & cover to discuss the concept of natural resources.
- Discuss the topics of renewable energy sources & nonrenewable energy sources.
- Review some vocabulary/terms for the story: hydropower, solar power, geothermal power, wind power, and biomass energy.

During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.

- What conditions in a state help to explain what energy source will be most available?
- How are natural resources and pollution connected in the USA?
- What are fossil fuels? Find examples of fossil fuels in the text.
- What is biomass energy?

After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

- Ask: Create a chart that natural resources, such as timber/wood, oranges, apples, wheat, corn, and more. Use a USA atlas that has natural resources listed for each state. List the states in alphabetical order and list at least two (2) natural resources per state.
- **Extension:** Illustrate each form of renewable energy sources, labeling each with name and a definition.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, or content.