

Topic: Sand Scarcity

First Article Annotation

Title: *Sand mining: the problem with our dwindling sand reserves*

Source: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Date: April 26, 2022

This article talks about how the world is running out of the kind of sand used to build things like roads and buildings. Even though there is a lot of sand in deserts, that sand is too smooth to use. Builders need rough sand, which comes from rivers and beaches. People take too much sand from these places, which is causing big problems. Some rivers dry up, animals lose their homes, and people can't get clean water. The article says we need rules to help protect nature and to recycle old building materials instead of always using new sand (United Nations Environment Programme, 2022).

Second Article Annotation

Title: *Why is the world running out of sand?*

Source: The Week

Date: August 21, 2023

This article says that sand is used for building all over the world. It tells us that the sand in deserts, like the Sahara, is too round and soft. Builders need rough sand from rivers and lakes. But now, there is not enough of that kind of sand. Some people take sand without permission, which hurts the environment. The article says this could be a big problem if we don't find new ways to build things (The Week, 2023).

Third Article Annotation

Title: *Four questions for Eric Lambin on the sand shortage*

Source: Stanford Report

Date: July 1, 2022

In this article, a scientist named Eric Lambin discusses the sand shortage. He says we still have a lot of sand, but not the kind we need for building. Lambin talks about using man-made sand and recycling old buildings to get materials. He also warns that taking too much

sand from nature hurts plants, animals, and even people's homes. He believes we need to protect the land and use sand more carefully (Stanford Report, 2022).

Why This Topic Is Important

Sand may seem like a small thing, but it is very important for our world. We use sand to make concrete for homes, schools, and roads. It is also used to make windows and phones. Because so many people need sand, we are running out of the right kind. This causes big problems for rivers, beaches, and animals.

In some countries, people fight over sand. Some even take sand secretly or break the law to sell it. This makes it hard for governments to keep control. In other places, countries argue about where the sand comes from. For example, Singapore gets a lot of sand from other countries, but some of those places have stopped sending it because they need it too.

If we don't find new ways to use less sand or recycle what we already have, we may face bigger problems. It will be harder to build new cities, protect nature, or keep prices low. That's why it's important for leaders to make rules and for all of us to learn about the issue.

References

Stanford Report. (2022, July 1). *Four questions for Eric Lambin on the sand shortage*. <https://news.stanford.edu/stories/2022/07/four-questions-eric-lambin-sand-shortage>

The Week. (2023, August 21). *Why is the world running out of sand?* <https://theweek.com/news/science-health/960931/why-is-the-world-running-out-of-sand>

United Nations Environment Programme. (2022, April 26). *Sand mining: the problem with our dwindling sand reserves*. <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/problem-our-dwindling-sand-reserves>