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crude oil petroleum as it comes out of the ground and before it has been refined or processed into useful products

nonrenewable resource a resource that takes so long to form that it can't be replaced. Oil, which takes millions of years to form, is such a resource.

oil reserves oil that has been discovered but remains unused in the ground

renewable resource a resource that can't be used up or that can be replaced quickly as it is used up. Sunlight is a renewable resource that cannot be used up. Wood is a renewable resource that can be replaced by planting more trees.

Major Oil-Producing Countries

The 10 Southwest Asia oil countries labeled in bold type possess about half of the world's known oil reserves. Notice that many of these countries border the Persian Gulf.

Southwest Asia

