

Mining

Guided Practice

Review the seven mining techniques provided. Fill out the table providing a description of what the technique involves, the cost of the technique (negative), and the benefit (positive).

1. Strip mining
2. Subsurface mining
3. Open-pit mining
4. Mountaintop removal
5. Solution mining
6. Placer mining
7. Undersea mining

Technique	Description	Cost	Benefit
Strip mining			
Subsurface mining			
Open-pit mining			
Mountaintop Removal			
Solution mining			
Placer mining			
Undersea mining			

Mining

Independent Practice

1. In your own words, explain why all sources of valuable metals are not considered to be ore.
2. What are three types of mining techniques utilized by mining companies? Describe the three that you identify. What are the cost(s) and benefit(s) of the three that you identified?
3. What steps are taken before mined materials may be used?
4. Two terms used to describe the amounts of a mineral are resources and reserves. Resources are the estimated amount of a mineral on Earth. Reserves are the amount of the mineral that currently can be mined. Which of the estimates would change if a new technology were developed that gave miners new access to a mineral source? Explain your answer.

