

Fossil Fuels

Guided Practice

You are an executive of a major mining company in the United States. You have recently acquired land and permit to extract coal from the ground.

What are the two methods of obtaining coal from the ground? Compare and contrast the two methods.

Which method would you support? Explain your answer. Be sure to consider the environment and risks associated with both in your answer.



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Independent Practice

1. Where did the energy in fossil fuels originally come from? What type of energy is stored in fossil fuels?
2. How are rocks that contain oil similar to a sponge? Diagram and explain the processes of primary and secondary oil extraction.
3. Why is the supply of fossil fuels dwindling? What will happen when easily obtained supplies of fossil fuels begin to run out?
4. The cost of researching technologies to extract alternative fossil fuels, such as oil sands and oil shale, is high. Do you think this is a wise investment? Explain your answer.

