

Name: _____

Earth as a system

Mining of mineral resources

Extracting ores

The lithosphere contains different minerals. What are minerals?

What is an inorganic substance?

We extract minerals from the lithosphere. What does it mean to extract?

What are some examples of minerals that we extract?

Rock that contains valuable minerals in large enough amounts is called_____.

Minerals need to be extracted from the rock. This is an expensive process and only worth doing financially if the concentration of the minerals in the rock is high enough.



Mining is the removal of ore. There are different forms of mining, like removing material from the surface (open cast mining), or from underground (underground mining).

Open cast mining

Some minerals are used in the form that they are mined. For example, diamonds need to be washed, and sand is removed from the river bed. However, most minerals need to be processed in order to be usable.