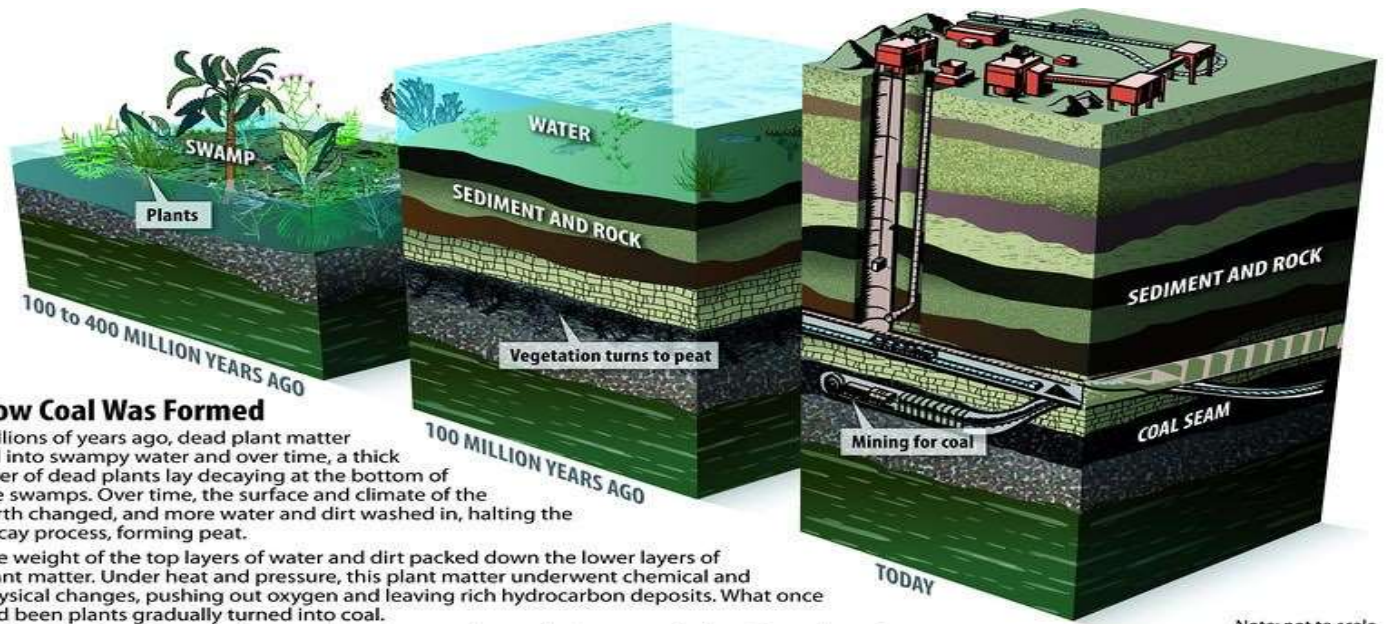


Name _____
 APES Topic 11 – Energy Resources

Date _____
 Mr. Romano

AIM: _____

Definition:



How Coal Was Formed

Millions of years ago, dead plant matter fell into swampy water and over time, a thick layer of dead plants lay decaying at the bottom of the swamps. Over time, the surface and climate of the Earth changed, and more water and dirt washed in, halting the decay process, forming peat.

The weight of the top layers of water and dirt packed down the lower layers of plant matter. Under heat and pressure, this plant matter underwent chemical and physical changes, pushing out oxygen and leaving rich hydrocarbon deposits. What once had been plants gradually turned into coal.

Coal can be found deep underground (as shown in this graphic), or it can be found near the surface.

Note: not to scale

Stages of Coal Formation:

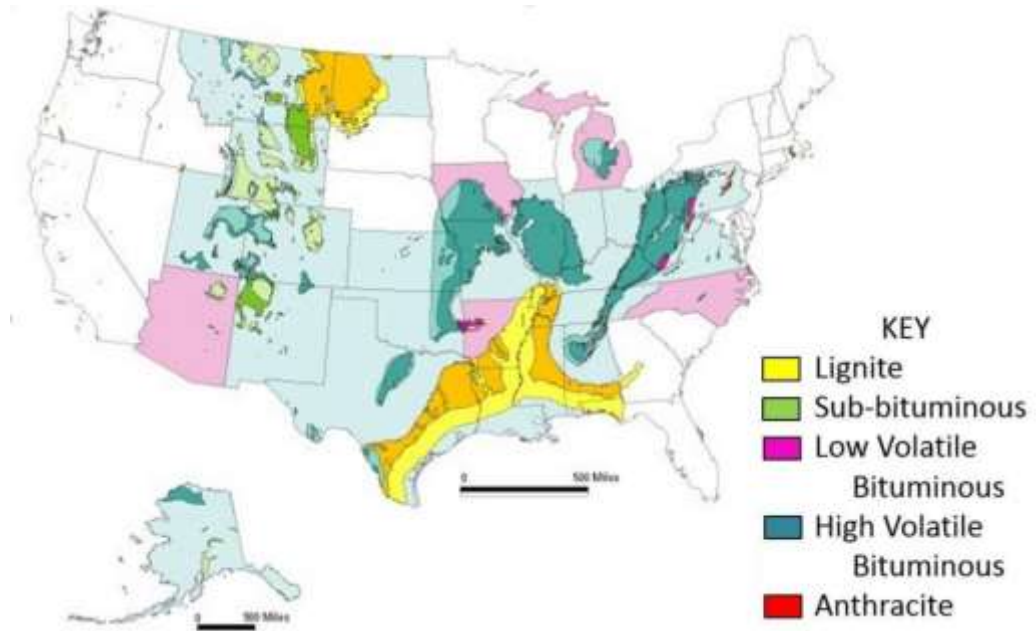
Stage	Description / Associated Info	heat and pressure involved in formation process	carbon content	heat value	moisture content	sulfur content
1						
2						
3						
4						

Coal Extraction:

1. surface mining (strip and open-pit)
2. subsurface mining
3. mountaintop removal

Coal Reserves / Use:

Most Reserves: _____



Largest User: _____

Pros and Cons of Using Coal:

PROS	CONS
1	1
2	2
3	3