

# Effects of Mining

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# What is Mining?

Mining is the extraction of valuable minerals or other geological materials from the earth, usually from an ore body, lode, vein, seam, reef or placer deposit

# What are Some Effects of Mining?

Bad mining practices can ignite coal fires, which can burn for decades, release fly ash and smoke laden with greenhouse gasses and other toxic chemicals

Mining releases coal mine methane, a greenhouse gas 20 times more powerful than carbon dioxide.

# What is Strip Mining?

Strip mining involves scraping away earth and rocks to get to coal buried near the surface

In many cases, mountains are literally blasted apart to reach thin coal seams within, leaving permanent scars on the landscape as a result



# **Some Impacts of Mining Include...**

Strip mining destroys landscapes, forests and wildlife habitats at the site of the mine when trees, plants, and topsoil are cleared from the mining area. This in turn leads to soil erosion and destruction of agricultural land.



# What is Underground Mining?

Underground mining allows coal companies to extract deeper deposits of coal

Columns of coal are left to support the ground above during the initial mining process, but then they are often taken out and the mine is left to collapse.



# **Some Impacts of Mining Include...**

Acid mine drainage is created when water mixes with coal and other rocks unearthed during mining, taking on toxic levels of minerals and heavy metals.

This toxic water leaks out of abandoned mines to contaminate groundwater, streams, soil, plants, animals and humans.



As a result an orange colour can blanket the river, estuary or sea bed killing plants and making surface water unusable as drinking water.

# **Some Impacts of Mining Include...**

When rain washes the loosened top soil into streams, sediments pollute waterways. This not only hurts fish and plant life downstream, but can also disfigure river channels and streams, which leads to flooding.



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# **Some Impacts of Mining Include...**

It causes subsidence as mines collapse and the land above it starts to sink. This causes serious damage to buildings

# Subsidence

