



NATURAL RESOURCES CASE STUDY: Mining in my surroundings

BACKGROUND

Although mining provides people with many needed resources, the environmental costs can be high. This project, "Mining in my surroundings," engages students by asking them to think about the materials in their lives that are mined and their impacts on nature.

On the one hand surface mining clears the landscape of trees and soil, and nearby streams and lakes are inundated with sediment, on the other hand pollutants from the mined rock, such as heavy metals, enter the sediment and water system, as well acids flow from some mine sites, changing the composition of nearby waterways



PROCEDURE

1. Students work in groups. Each group select a today's active mine exploitation in your region (Mineral mining, rock quarry, sand extraction). The mining should be active or in project. The groups can use internet resources to collect information.
2. Students explore their assigned topic and collect information about a particular type of mine in the region.
3. Groups use internet to gather information about this mine taking into account the following the points:
 1. Locate the mine in a map of the region
 2. Find out when the mine started to be worked
 3. Look into what kind of mineral/ rocks are extracted
 4. Search the use of this resource in our society.
 5. Students focus on the economic importance of this activity and the kind of services or goods that it supplies
 6. Work out the environmental impact of this mining industry: pollution problems originated from this mining activity, changes in ecosystems, ..
 7. Investigate possible social problems related with the mine.
4. Make a list of the Pros and Cons (the advantages and disadvantages) we get from this mining activity.
5. Give your own piece of advice either to keep this mining activity working or to stop it. Use good reasons to decide.
6. Prepare your results: Brochure, Poster, video, presentation..

