

Mining in Society Merit Badge

Fillable Worksheet

<https://merit-badge.university/merit-badges/mining-in-society/requirements/>

Scout Name

Unit

Date

1. Do the following:

- a. Select 10 different minerals.

For each one, name a product for which the mineral is used.

- b. Explain the role mining has in producing and processing things that are grown.

- c. From the list of minerals you chose for requirement 1(a), determine the countries where those minerals can be found, and discuss what you learned with your counselor.

Discussed with counselor

2. Obtain a map of your state or region showing major cities, highways, rivers, and railroads. Mark the locations of five mining enterprises.

Find out what resource is processed at each location, and identify the mine as a surface or underground operation.

Discuss with your counselor how the resources mined at these locations are used.

Discussed with counselor

3. Discuss with your counselor the potential hazards a miner may encounter at an active mine and the protective measures used by miners. In your discussion, explain how:

Discussed with counselor

- a. The miner's personal protective equipment is worn and used, including a hard hat, safety glasses, earplugs, dust mask or respirator, self-rescue device, and high-visibility vest.
- b. Miners protect their hands and feet from impact, pinch, vibration, slipping, and tripping/falling hazards.
- c. Monitoring equipment warns miners of imminent danger, and how robots, drones, and other technology may be used in mine rescues.

4. Discuss with your counselor the dangers someone might encounter at an abandoned mine or quarry.

Discussed with counselor

5. Do ONE of the following:

Complete 1 of the following:

- a. With your parent or guardian's approval and your counselor's assistance, use the internet to find and take a virtual tour of two types of mines.

Determine the similarities and differences between them regarding resource exploration, mine planning and permitting, types of equipment used, and the minerals produced.

Discuss with your counselor what you learned from your internet-based mine tours.

Discussed with counselor

- b. With your parent or guardian's permission and counselor's approval, visit a mining or minerals exhibit at a museum.

Find out about the history of the museum's exhibit and the type of mining it represents.

Give three examples of how mineral resources have influenced history.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

- c. With your parent or guardian's permission and counselor's approval, visit an active mine.

Find out about the tasks required to explore, plan, permit, mine, and process the resource mined at that site. Take photographs, if allowed, and request brochures from your visit.

Share photos, brochures, and what you have learned with your counselor.

Discussed with counselor

- d. With your parent or guardian's permission and counselor's approval, visit a mining equipment manufacturer or supplier.

Discuss the types of equipment produced or supplied there, and in what part of the mining process this equipment is used. Take photographs if allowed, and request brochures from your visit.

Discussed with counselor

Share photos, brochures, and what you have learned with your counselor.

Discussed with counselor

- e. Discuss with your counselor two methods used to reduce rock in size, one of which uses a chemical process to extract a mineral.

Discussed with counselor

Explain the difference between smelting and refining.

f. Learn about the history of a local mine, including what is or was mined there, how the deposit was found, the mining techniques and processes used, and how the mined resource is or was used.

Find out from a historian, community leader, or business person how mining has affected your community.

Note any social, cultural, or economic consequences of mining in your area.

Share what you have learned with your counselor.

Discussed with counselor

6. Do the following:

a. Choose a modern mining site.

Find out what is being done to help control environmental impacts.

Share what you have learned about mining and sustainability.

b. Explain reclamation as it is used in mining and how mine reclamation pertains to the Leave No Trace Seven Principles and the Outdoor Code.

c. Discuss with your counselor what values society has about returning the land to the benefit of wildlife and people after mining has ended.

Discussed with counselor

Discuss the transformation of the Scouting America's Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve from a mine site to its current role.

Discussed with counselor

7. Do ONE of the following:

Complete 1 of the following:

a. Explore the anticipated benefits of interplanetary mining.

Learn how NASA and private investors may search for, extract, and process minerals in outer space, and the primary reasons for mining the moon, other planets, or near- Earth asteroids.

Find out how exploration and mineral processing in space differ from exploration on Earth.

Share what you have learned with your counselor, and discuss the difficulties encountered in exploring, collecting, and analyzing surface or near-surface samples in space.

Discussed with counselor

b. Identify three minerals found dissolved in seawater or found on the ocean floor, and list three places where the ocean is mined today.

Share this information with your counselor, and discuss the chief incentives for mining the oceans for minerals, the reclamation necessary after mining is over, and any special concerns when mining minerals from the ocean.

Discussed with counselor

Find out what sustainability problems arise from mining the oceans.

Discuss what you learned with your counselor.

Discussed with counselor

c. Learn what metals and minerals are recycled after their original use has ended.

List four metals and two nonmetals, and find out how each can be recycled.

Find out how recycling affects the sustainability of natural resources and how this idea is related to mining.

Discuss what you learn with your counselor.

Discussed with counselor

d. With your parent or guardian's permission, use the internet and other resources to determine the current price of gold, copper, aluminum, or other commodities like cement or coal, and find out the five-year price trend for two of these.

Report your findings to your counselor.

8. Explore careers related to this merit badge.

Research one career to learn about the training and education needed, costs, job prospects, salary, job duties, and career advancement. Your research methods may include—with your parent or guardian's permission—an internet or library search, an interview with a professional in the field, or a visit to a location where people in this career work.

Discuss with your counselor both your findings and what about this profession might make it an interesting career.

Discussed with counselor