

Minequest Task List: Coal Times

The Big Question: How dependent is your life on coal?

Task#1: First, take five minutes and write down everything you already know about Wyoming coal. Keep your list, as you'll need to look at it again at the end of this Minequest.

Task #2: Scroll to the role you have been assigned to discover your search questions. Explore the websites listed for your role and find the answers for each question.

Task #3: When each of you has a set of answers to the questions for your field, come back into your group, discuss the information you found, and develop one complete group answer to each of the questions. Try to develop your answer well enough that others who know little about coal will learn enough from your answers to be able to explain it to their friends. As a team, create a product which will communicate to the rest of the class the most important information you have gathered.

Task #5: Now that you have created your product to share your findings, read the paper on which you recorded what you knew about coal BEFORE you began this minequest. Take five minutes and write what you know NOW about coal. Compare your information. Using a scale of 1 – 10 with ten being the best rating, rate yourself on how much you learned, write it at the top of your paper, and circle it.

Task #6: Imagine that our supply of coal was reduced and we didn't have enough for all the ways we use it in today's world. How would you allocate this reduced supply of coal to the many uses of this mineral? Would you select the MOST important uses for ALL of the coal? What ARE the most important uses? Would you completely STOP the coal supply to less important products? What other options can you think of to get the best use of the coal for our lives? With your team, develop solutions for this problem using the problem solving matrix.

Task #7: From the matrix above, select any two separate scores. Identify the scores you choose by the cell they are in such as Solution 3, Criterion 5. Explain what you were thinking when you gave these two ratings.

Task #8: Explain how the highest rated solution assures that the majority of individuals or groups involved are affected in a positive manner or neutral manner. Explain how the consequences for some parties might be negative yet necessary. Can you modify the solution so that the consequences to most parties are equitable in that each party will have some positive consequences and some consequences that are negative?

Task #9: Visit the Minequest Lobby and join a conversation to share your discoveries.