

Minequest Task List: Every Day in Every Way

Big Question: Wyoming minerals are developed into conveniences and services that make our modern life more enjoyable. Are some of these goods and services more essential than others?

Task #1: Record team answers to the following questions and draw a map showing the location of minerals in Wyoming.

- a. What different companies mine resources in Wyoming?
- b. Where are these companies located?
- c. What different jobs do people perform at these sites?
- d. What different minerals are mined by these companies?
- e. What products or conveniences that you use every day are dependent on the minerals extracted in Wyoming?

Task#2: As a team, make a chart listing each Wyoming mining company that you discovered and for each company the location, the minerals mined, and the jobs required to get the work done.

Task #3: As a team, make a chart for each mineral that shows the goods and/or services the mineral produces or provides.

Task #4: As a team, refer to your charts from the Mining section of the quest. Make a list of the goods and services which come from mineral development that you think all five of these Wyoming citizens would agree are the most important, regardless of their different occupations, hometowns, hobbies, and concerns.

Task #5: As a team, predict two or three differences of opinion that the five neighbors might have as a result of their different occupations, hobbies and recreational interests, hometowns, and special concerns. Justify your predictions in short written explanations.

Task #6: Refer to the list of goods and services you made in Task #1. Using all the information you've gathered so far, as a team discuss how your lives and your community would be different without each of the goods and services on your list. Agree on one mineral and predict how your daily life would be different if the mineral were not available to process into other goods and services. Your list can include both positive and negative impacts of not having the mineral developed. Write your team predictions for life without the mineral you have selected as a list to share with the class according to the directions of your teacher.

Imagine this situation. Due to various unexpected events, less money is available to continue mining and processing all of the minerals in Wyoming at their current level. Cutbacks will cause some goods and services that you depend on to be either less available or no longer available at all. State government has some funds that it can use to support some but not all of the minesites in Wyoming. At a town meeting, you can propose plans for how to divide up the money among the four mineral industries to keep the goods and services that you think are the most important. Do you think coal should get the most support even if it means losing some of the products we get from trona? Is it more important to support continued development of uranium at the expense of support for mining bentonite and the goods or services that it provides?

Task #7: Use the problem-solving matrix to record four different ways to divide resources to continue the flow of goods and services dependent on minerals. Each of your solutions must show what percent of government assistance funds will go to each of the four minerals. (Example: 100% to coal and no help to the other three mineral minesites.) Decide on four criteria you will use to evaluate your solutions. Tally and record the scores for each solution on the matrix.

Task #8: From your completed matrix, select any two separate scores. Identify the scores you choose by the cell they are in such as Solution 3, Criterion 5. In a written explanation, make a case to support these two ratings.

Task #9: As a team or an individual, write an explanation of how the solution that scored the highest on your matrix was or was not an example of compromise. Did this "winning solution" require more than one interest group or individual to make sacrifices? Who lost and who gained? If you determine that the solution did not require compromise, how would you revise it so that it did?

Task #10: Think about the results of your problem solving matrix. Did the solution you liked the best score the highest? Could you sell your solution to someone else? Are you satisfied with the criteria you chose? What goods and services would you personally most hate to lose if current mineral production could not be maintained? What would be the hardest on your family or your community? Register your thoughts at the Minequest Lobby.