



Lake Bottom Treasure

Predict what the three products shown on the Minequest mining page have in common.

1. What is the actual chemical name for Trona ore?
2. What two forms does the actual by-product (soda ash) of Trona take?
3. Where in Wyoming were the first Trona deposits discovered and how did this discovery occur?
4. Approximately how many years will the existing reserves of Trona deposits last?
5. List the four soda ash producers in order of production from most to least produced.
6. How is soda ash transported to other areas of the country and world?
7. List at least five foreign countries that are Wyoming soda ash customers.
8. What two ancient civilizations first used Trona? What did each use it for?

9. Consider modern day uses. Generally speaking, what products do consumers worldwide use that includes soda ash in some phase of the manufacturing process. Construct a concept map showing the relationship of Soda Ash (Main topic) to the following subtopics (glass, chemical, food and household use). Continue the branching by giving multiple examples of Soda Ash use.

10. Wyoming has been referred to as "the Saudi Arabia of Sodium carbonate", what does this mean?

11. Fill in the data table below for the four soda ash producers.

| Corporation | Highest Production in Tons | Year Achieved | Highest Number of Employees | Year Achieved | Lowest Number of Employees | Year Achieved |
|------------------|----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| FMC* | | | | | | |
| OCI | | | | | | |
| Solvay | | | | | | |
| General Chemical | | | | | | |

2. Based on the data you have supplied for each of the four corporations, write **three** conclusions that show the relationship between production and employment in the trona industry. *Use data only from the original FMC site 3rd chart. Ignore the data from the Granger site (formerly Texas-Gulf—last chart).

13. Analyze the first chart on the website that provides an overview of the trona industry for 10 years, 1994–2003. Compare the years 1994–1999 (end of the 20th century) to the years 2000–2003 (beginning of the 21st century). What trends can you predict for the future of the trona industry in relation to production and employment?