

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Energy Sources: Coal

Coal was the first fuel that people began to use and still remains the most plentiful of all non-renewable sources. The coal we use today began to form about three hundred million years ago through the action of anaerobic bacteria in forests that were covered by water, buried, and compressed by layers of sediment.



### Toxic Fuel

When coal is burned to produce electrical energy, enormous amounts of carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrate sulfur, and other compounds that are toxic to living things are released into the atmosphere.

### Transforming Coal into Electricity

To produce electricity from coal, the coal is pulverized and then burned in a furnace with a boiler. The resulting steam is used to spin turbines connected to generators that begin to spin which produces electricity.

### Answer the following questions:

1. What is the most abundant of non-renewable resources?

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2. How long ago did the coal we use today begin to form?

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3. What type of bacteria intervened in the formation of coal?

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4. Name three compounds that are released by burning coal.

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5. Explain how electricity is produced with coal.

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