

### Mineral Resources

- Mineral resources - any Earth material used by industry
  - Metals, oil & gas, soil etc.

### Mineral Resources

Deposits formed by slow geologic processes

- Rate of use is much faster than rate of formation

### Mineral Resources

- Divided into two categories
  1. Renewable resources - replenished over short time
    - Few mineral resources fall into this category
    - Some mineral resources are recycled

## Mineral Resources

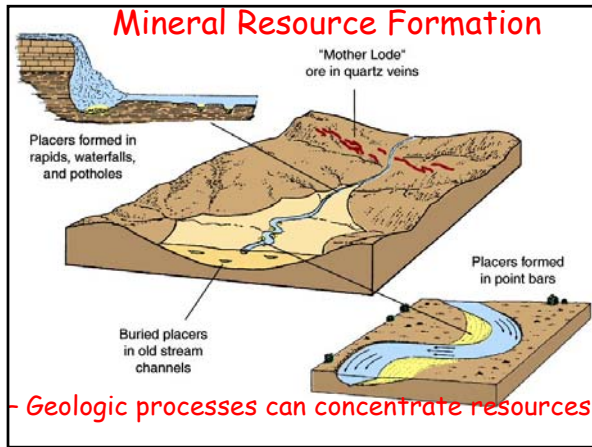
2. Nonrenewable resources - finite & exhaustible over human time scale

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## Mineral Resources

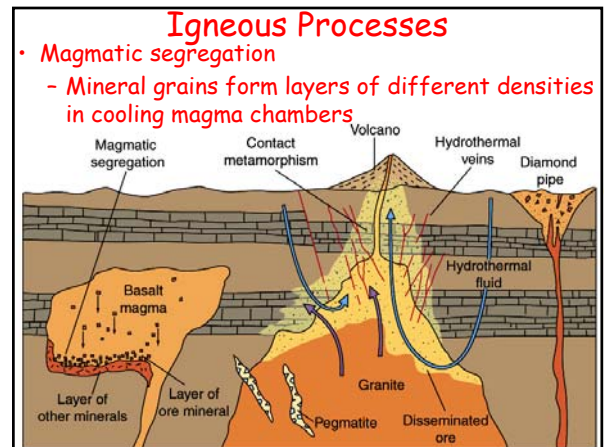
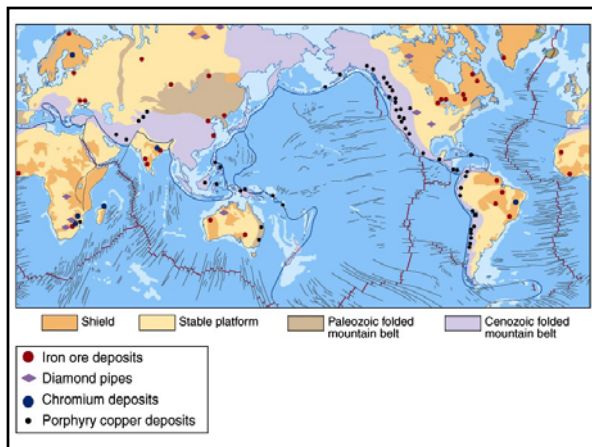
- Most resources occur in naturally low concentration
- Must be concentrated

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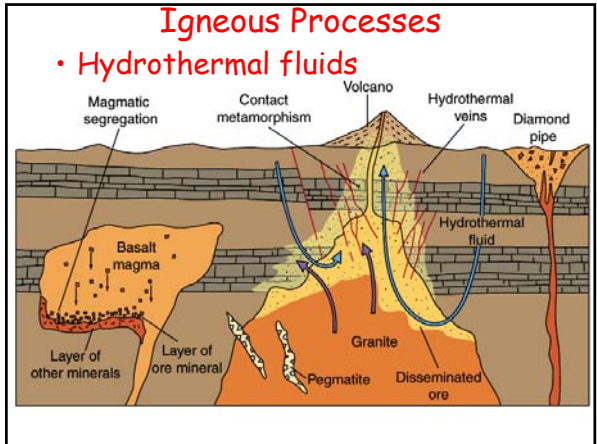
Process	Deposits Formed	Mineral Resource	
Igneous processes	Magmatic segregation	Chromium, vanadium, nickel, copper, cobalt, platinum	
	Pegmatites	Beryllium, lithium, tantalum	
	Hydrothermal deposits	Copper, lead, zinc, molybdenum, tin, gold, silver	
Sedimentary	Clastic rocks	Stream deposits	Sand, gravel
		Placer deposits	Gold, platinum, diamonds, tin, ilmenite, rutile, zircon
		Dune deposits	Sand
		Loess deposits	Soil
		Chemical precipitates	Evaporite deposits
	Marine sediment	Banded iron formation, phosphate, limestone	
Organic precipitates	Hydrocarbon deposits	Oil, natural gas, coal	
	Marine deposits	Limestone	
Metamorphic processes	Contact metamorphism	Tungsten, copper, tin, lead, zinc, gold, silver	
	Regional metamorphism	Gold, tungsten, copper, talc, asbestos	
Weathering and groundwater	Residual soils	Clay	
	Residual weathering deposits	Nickel, iron, cobalt, aluminum, gold	
	Groundwater deposits	Travertine, uranium, sulfur	
	Brines in basins	Lead, zinc, copper	
	Geothermal wells	Hot water, electricity	
	Water	Drinking water, irrigation	

(Modified from S. E. Kesler)



### Igneous Processes

- Late stage segregation
  - Many trace elements do not fit into structures of rock forming minerals
  - Rare elements are concentrated in remaining water-rich magma
  - Rare minerals crystallize with these elements
    - e.g., Be, Li, U, Ta



### Igneous Processes

- Industrial materials
  - Generally nonmetallic rocks or minerals
  - Used for:
    - Building stone
    - Aggregate

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### Metamorphic Processes




- Regional metamorphism
  - Form large deposits of common minerals
    - Talc, asbestos, graphite, marble

### Metamorphic Processes

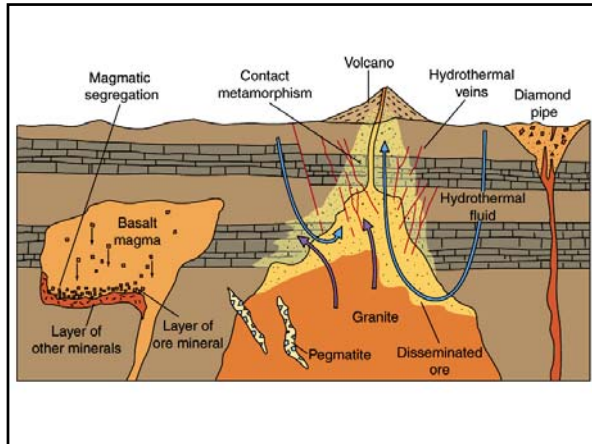
- Regional metamorphism
  - large mining operations



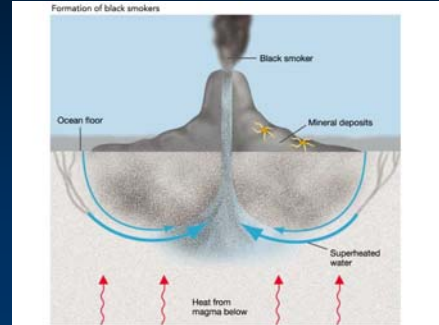
Hydrothermal deposits from fluids expelled during metamorphism

### Metamorphic Processes

- Contact metamorphism
  - High heat and introduction of new materials from fluids
    - Metasomatism
  - Mineral deposits are concentrated around igneous intrusion

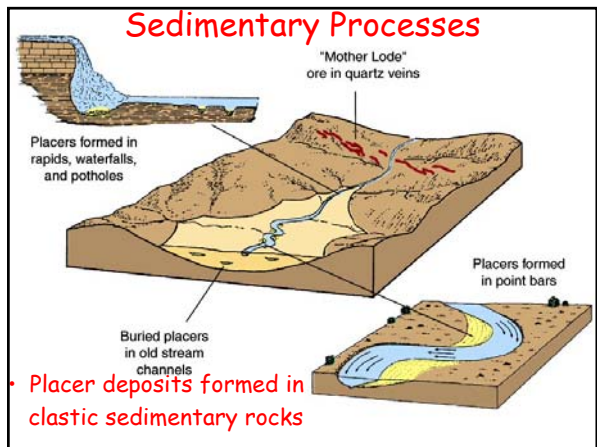


- Seafloor metamorphism - Tectonics
- Interaction of hot basalt with seawater circulating through it



- Creates hydrothermal fluid
- Fluid may dissolve and carry high concentrations
- Minerals precipitate when they hit cool seawater - black smokers

A photograph of a black smoker hydrothermal vent. The vent is a tall, dark, mineral-rich structure with a white, mineral-rich base. The surrounding water is dark, and the vent is illuminated by a light source, likely a submersible lamp.



### Sedimentary Processes

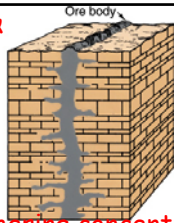
- Chemical precipitates
- Banded iron formations
- Evaporite deposits
- Halite & gypsum

A photograph of a large salt flat or evaporite deposit. The flat is a vast, flat expanse of white and blue salt deposits, with a body of water in the foreground. The background shows a range of mountains under a clear blue sky.

### Sedimentary Processes

- Sedimentary hydrothermal fluids
- Low T deposits - Mississippi Valley Pb-Zn deposits

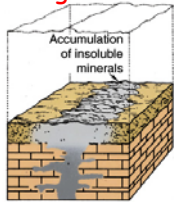
## Weathering & Groundwater



- Chemical weathering concentrates minerals

-Commonly concentrate:

- Al - bauxite
- Fe, Ni, Co



## Bauxite - Al resource

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## Bauxite - Fe resource

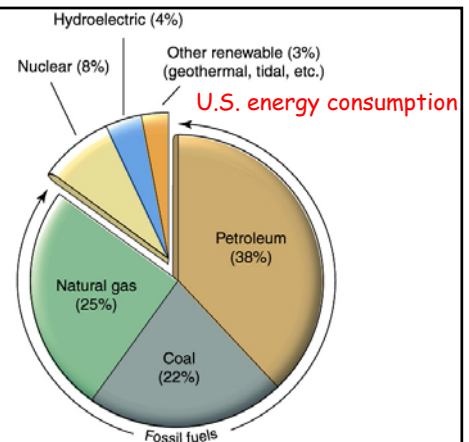


## Weathering & Groundwater

- Groundwater is a renewable resource
  - Rate of recharge may be very slow in some areas
  - Groundwater mining
    - Removing more water than is recharged

## Energy Resources

- Energy resources are divided into renewable & nonrenewable
  - Modern society is dependent on large energy usage
  - Fossil fuels are used at high rate
  - Renewable resources are not fully developed
  - Individually, most can't meet demand



## Renewable Energy Resources

- Solar energy
  - not constant or evenly distributed
  - Heat used to produce steam - passive solar
  - May be converted directly to electricity
    - Photovoltaic cells
    - Cells are relatively inefficient

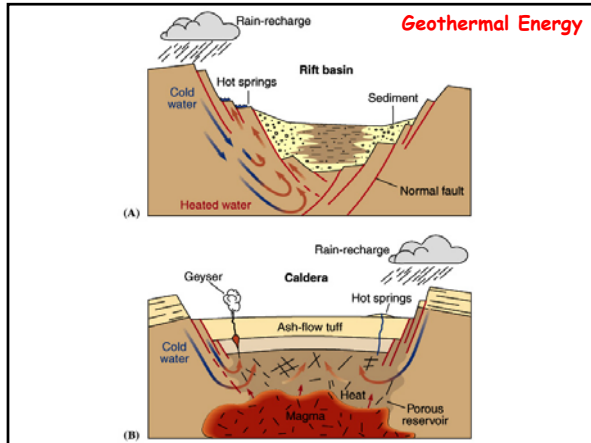


## Renewable Energy Resources

- Hydroelectric power
  - kinetic energy of flowing water
  - Simple technology; inexpensive and clean
  - Environmental & ecological disturbance
    - maintenance



## Geothermal Energy



- Wind energy
  - Old technology
  - Pollution free and plentiful



- Expensive to develop
- Not consistent

## Fossil Fuels

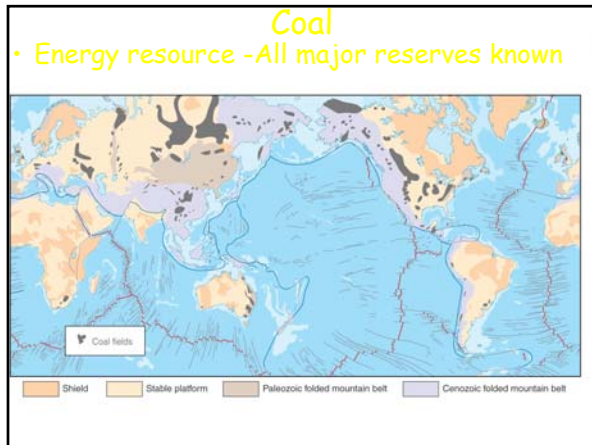
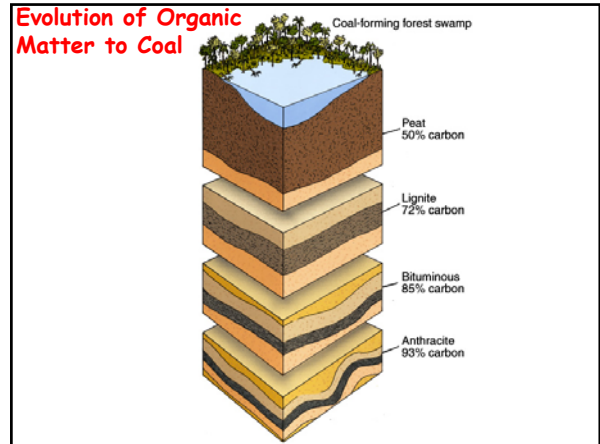
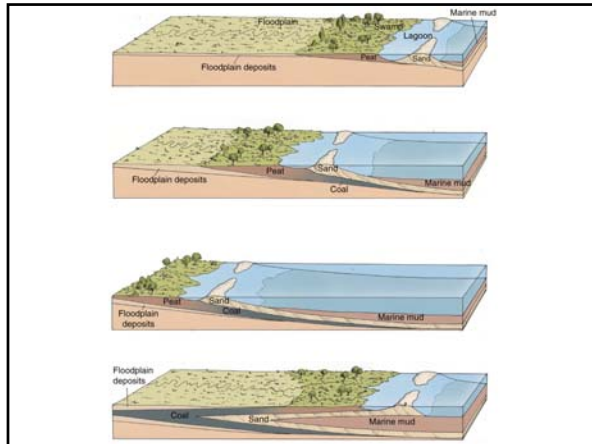
- Coal, oil and natural gas
  - Buried organic matter accumulations



## Coal

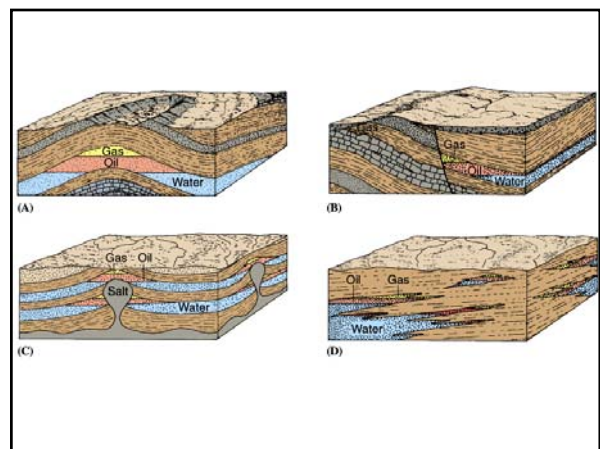
- Originate as plant material
  1. layers of peat
  2. Burial, heat and pressure
  3. Carbon content increases
  - No deposits older than 440 Ma





### Petroleum & Natural Gas

- Four step processes
  1. Source rock with high organic matter content
  2. Burial under appropriate conditions to "crack"
  3. Petroleum or gas must migrate to
  4. Reservoir rock beneath a "trap"



## Petroleum & Natural Gas

- Problems are not as great as with coal
  - Pumping may cause subsidence
  - Spills are locally damaging in short term



## Petroleum & Natural Gas

- Consumption is high, sustainability of resource is unknown
  - Cost is associated with supply & demand

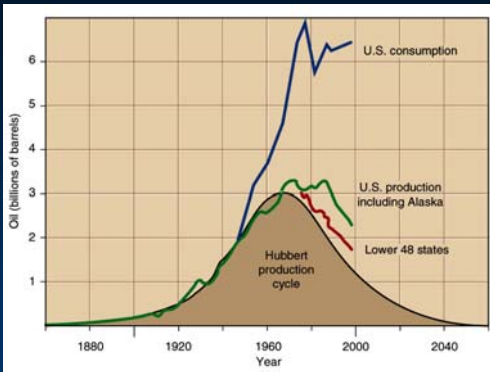
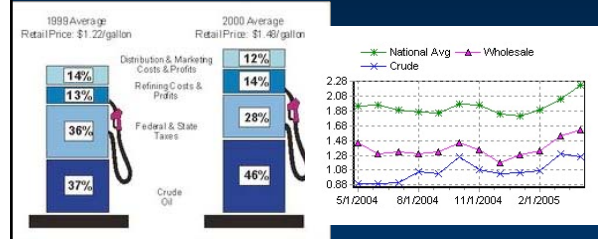


Fig. 24.10. U.S. petroleum consumption

## Methane Hydrates

- Methane hydrate ice forms in deeper cold marine waters
  - May contain 2x the C as oil, gas & coal combined
  - Volatile gas may be difficult to mine



## Nuclear Energy

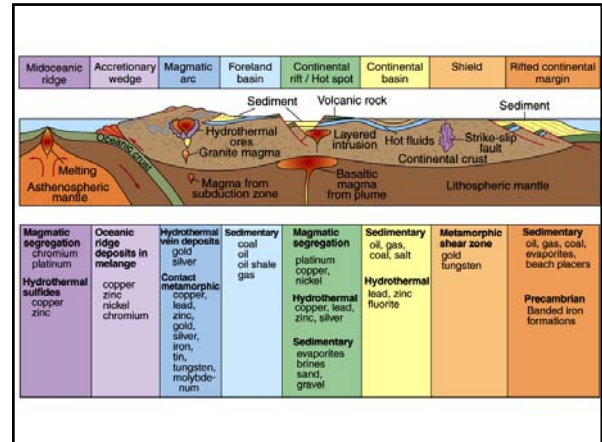
- Controlled fission of U produces large amounts of heat
  - Fission is the splitting of an unstable nucleus into smaller mass elements
  - Heat used to produce steam as with most other energy sources
  - Radiation & thermal pollution are most serious problems

## Nuclear Energy

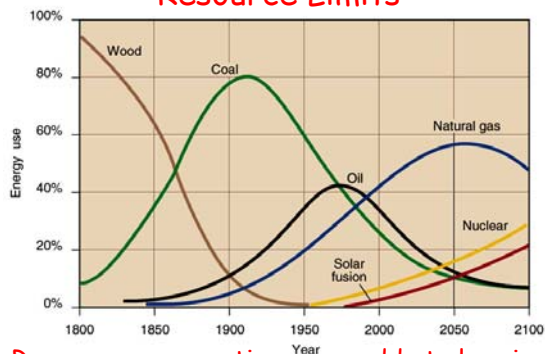
- Some countries have developed programs to deal with these issues
  - France produces ~75% of its energy from nuclear power
- Sources of U are commonly associated with weathering of rhyolites
  - Concentrated in sedimentary aquifers by reduction

## Plate Tectonic & Mineral Resources

- Plate tectonics provides information on basic geologic processes and their distribution over time
  - Associations with mineral deposit origin aids in exploration
  - Many deposits associated with geologic processes at plate boundaries

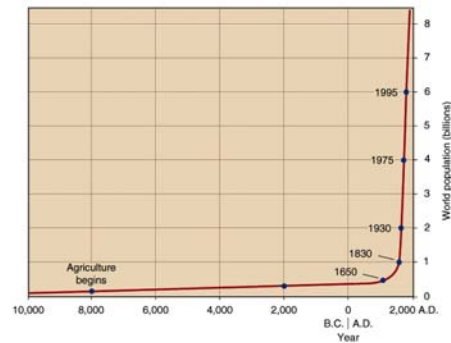


## Resource Limits

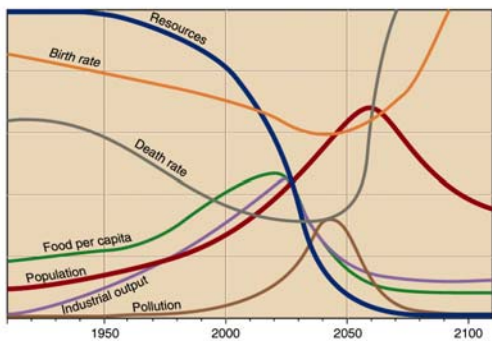


- Resource consumption proceeded at alarming rate

- Resource consumption linked to pop. growth
- Maximum sustainable pop. - Leeuwenhoek (1679)
  - Estimated maximum population of 13.4 bil.



- Current growth rates project reaching this number in the next century



## Resource Limits

- Challenge is switch to non-growth
- Resource consumption will still grow due to modernization

