

Energy Resources: Coal

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KEY TERMS

A solid fossil fuel formed from plant remains.

COAL

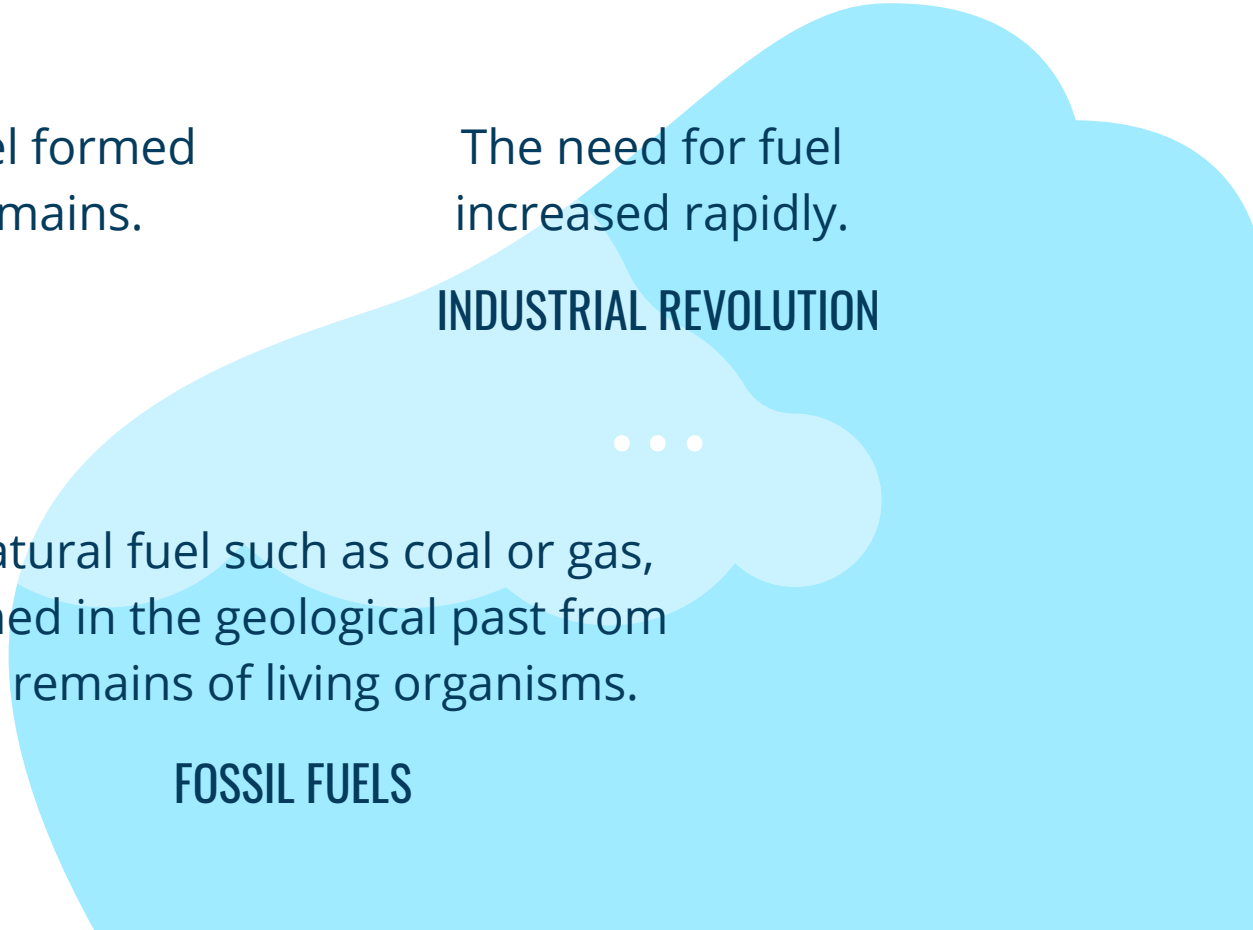


A natural fuel such as coal or gas, formed in the geological past from the remains of living organisms.

FOSSIL FUELS

The need for fuel increased rapidly.

INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION



A. Peat



Layers of dead plant material build up to form peat.

C. Bituminous coal



-Bituminous rock is also a sedimentary rock.

- Compacts material

B. Lignite



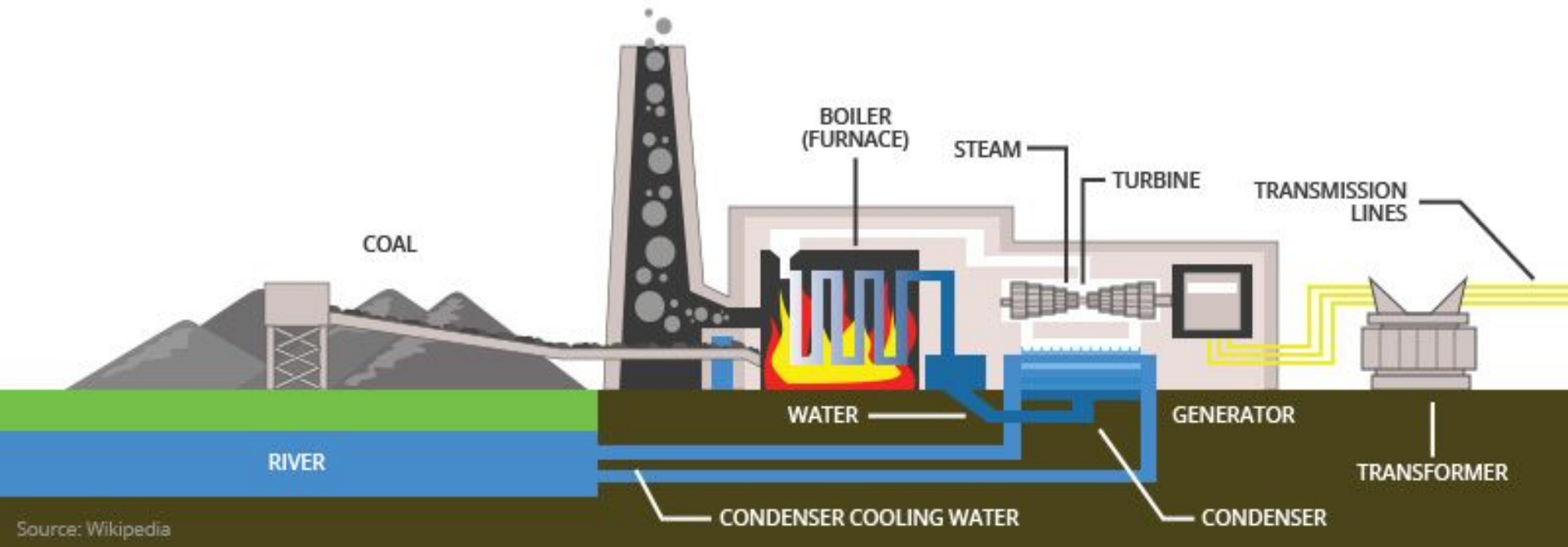
- Soft brown coal, a sedimentary rock.
- Compacts materials

D. Anthracite



- Heat and pressure deep beneath the surface produce anthracite

COAL FIRED POWER STATION



PROS & CONS OF A COAL ENERGY SOURCE



PROS

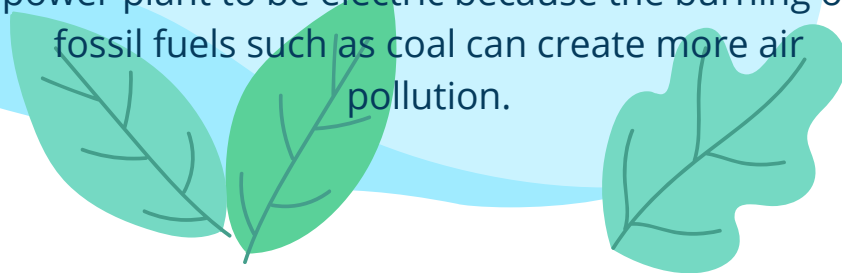
- They are used to fuel the huge steam engines that powered ships, trains and large factories.
- Provides 23% of the energy in the United States.
- Major use is to fuel electric power plants.
- Provides a lot of energy.
- Easy to transport

CONS

- Can be very dangerous.
- Can increase erosion.
- Burning most types of coal can lead to air pollution more than other fossil fuels.
- Thousands of miners have been injured or killed due to accidents that happen in the mines.
- Many suffer from “black lung”, a disease caused by years of breathing in coal dust.

Best Location to Build a Power Plant

The best area to have an electric power plant for coal would be somewhere near a mine shaft for easier transportation and away from public water sources due to the fact that the runoff from mines can cause water pollution. We would prefer the power plant to be electric because the burning of fossil fuels such as coal can create more air pollution.



TRUE OR FALSE

1. Coal is a fossil fuel that is formed from the remains of plants.
2. The best place to build an electric power plant is far from the mine shaft and closer to water sources.
3. Lignite is a hard, black coal.
4. Coal provides 23% of the United States' energy.
5. Many coal miners suffer from a disease called black lung.