



Where will I find Australian minerals?

This is a simple activity to aid understanding about the location and distribution of selected mineral resources in Australia. This activity requires students to be out of their seats, moving around and chatting with each other to find the answers.

Materials required:

- 1 x **card set A** Following. *Teachers will need to photocopy these cards beforehand.*
- If you do the activity OUTSIDE: Chalk to draw map of Australia on the playground.
- If you do the activity INSIDE: 1 x **card set B** as below, blu-tac.
- Large bag/bucket/A3 envelope for “lucky dip”.
- Class set atlases OR one classroom atlas for reference.

What to do:

1. Use chalk to draw a large map of Australia on the playground. Your sketch map should contain the state borders. The class members could help you to do this or you may prefer to prepare it beforehand OR
2. Use the classroom/multi-purpose room to blu-tac **Card set B** around the room to simulate the states of Australia. For example. place Northern Territory on the wall facing North, then Queensland to NT’s east, Victoria to the south of the room etc.
3. Place card set A in a bag/bucket/A3 envelope. Jumble/shake bucket. Play “lucky dip” with the students until each student is holding a card.
4. Ask students to read their card and locate themselves on the “map”.
For example, a student with the card reading “Your rare yellow metal is found in Ballarat, Victoria.”, would place himself/herself in the centre of Victoria, relative to Melbourne. A student with the card “Iron ore is found in far north of Western Australia.” would place himself/herself on the “map” in the north west of that state.
Encourage students to ask each other “Where is it/have you been there/do you know...?” and to use the atlases.
5. When all students are in place check the atlas to ensure that all students are where they should be. Make this fun “Oh, John, did you know that your mineral is actually mined on the other side of Tasmania?”.
6. Conduct the following discussion
 - 6.1 Hands up all the GOLD people! How would you describe where gold is found in Australia? (in all states/only some states/in the north/south/east/west?)
 - 6.2 Repeat for other minerals/metals.
 - 6.3 Are there any states of Australia where minerals/metals are NOT found?
 - 6.4 Name the state/s which seem to have a large variety of minerals/metals.
 - 6.5 List the minerals/metals you would like to find out more about. Go to:
www.minerals.org.au/victoriaeducation/teacher_services/resources and then click on Rock Files.
 - 6.6 Write a paragraph in your workbook to answer the question:
“Where on earth (in Australia) are minerals and metals found?”

CARD SET A

Copy a full set of cards containing 30 facts. Cut the cards into strips. Place in "lucky dip". If you wish you could paste the strip onto paper which matches the colour of the mineral e.g paste the gold clues on yellow paper, the iron ore clues on red/grown paper, mineral sands on black paper etc. This will give a better VISUAL PATTERN when students are standing in place on the map.

Your rare yellow metal (gold) is found in Ballarat, Victoria.

You rare yellow metal (gold) is found in north central Tasmania.

Your rare yellow metal (gold) is found in Bendigo, Victoria.

Your rare yellow metal (gold) is found in Kalgoorlie, Western Australia.

Your orange dusty mineral (bauxite) is found near Gove, Northern Territory.

Your orange dusty mineral (bauxite) is found at Mitchell Plateau, WA

You represent tin mined at Renison, Tasmania west coast

Bauxite is mined at Huntly, south west WA

Silver, lead, zinc, copper and gold are found at Rosebery, Tasmania

Minerals sands are found at Stradbroke Island, Queensland

Your mineral sand is mined near the Murray River, north west Victoria

At Argyle in northern Western Australia (hint: near the NT border) we find precious diamonds.

Gold is found at many locations in central Northern Territory

Iron Ore is found at many places in central Western Australia such as Paraburdoo, Mt Tom Price, Mt Whaleback.

Nickel is found inland, south eastern part of Western Australia

Olympic Dam in South Australia contains copper, gold and silver

South of Perth you will find mineral sands (at Capel)

Outback Cobar in NSW is rich in copper, silver, lead and zinc

Uranium is found at Jabiluka, NT

Uranium is found at Olympic Dam, South Australia

Brown coal is mined in south east Victoria

ACTIVITY 22

Name _____

Black coal is mined north of Sydney, NSW

A good place to find gas is off the coast of north west WA

Oil deposits are found in Bass Strait (between Vic and Tas)

Charters Towers in Queensland is famous for gold.

Manganese can be found at Woodie Woodie, Western Australia

Weipa is famous for bauxite

There is a gold mine at Beaconsfield, Tasmania.

Head to Palm Valley (near Alice Springs, NT) to find oil and gas

Copper can be found at Mt Gunson, South Australia.

CARD SET B**VICTORIA****SOUTH AUSTRALIA****NEW SOUTH WALES****TASMANIA****WESTERN AUSTRALIA****QUEENSLAND****NORTHERN TERRITORY****MELBOURNE****DARWIN****HOBART****BRISBANE****PERTH****ADELAIDE****CANBERRA****SYDNEY**