

Ministry of Education
Secondary Engagement Programme
September 2020

Social Studies

Grade 8

WEEK TWELVE

LESSON ONE (1)

Topic: Mineral Resources

Sub Topic: Gold, Diamond and Bauxite

Objective: Students will:

- Describe the mining operations
- Locate on a map where these are mined.

Concept: Resources are the living and the non -living things which can be developed and made useful by man. Guyana has many resources which can be used to bring in revenue.

Content:

MINERAL RESOURCES



Mineral resources form one category of natural resources. Mineral resources are formed naturally in the soil/land. They include petroleum, coal, salt, manganese and copper. Guyana has a wealth of mineral resources and these include precious and semi-precious stones, bauxite, sand and stone. Guyana also has vast deposits of kaolin as well as small deposits of petroleum, but these have not been fully exploited.

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USES OF OUR MINERAL RESOURCES

Bauxite:

Mining for bauxite takes place primarily at Linden, Kwakwani and Aroaima in Administrative Region 10. This is more or less in the Sand and Clay Natural Region of Guyana. This mineral after extraction is processed into aluminium to be used for making pots and pans, roof sheeting and the chassis for aeroplanes.

Gold and diamond:

Gold and diamond are our precious minerals. These are mined mostly in the mountainous areas of Guyana. The main mining communities are located in the Cuyuni-Mazaruni-Potaro area. Diamond in particular is mined for in the Kamarang, Kurupung and Issano areas. Gold is a mineral that is used extensively in the manufacture of jewellery-rings, necklaces, bands, pendants and chains. Diamond is used for wedding rings and necklaces as well as other forms of expensive jewellery.

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Semi-precious minerals:

The semi-precious minerals are found in large quantities in the mountainous areas of Guyana. These can be designed into relatively cheap decorative pieces as well as jewellery. Some of the semi-precious metals in Guyana are opal, jasper, rose quartz, amethyst, topaz and black pearl. Agate and soapstone are usually made into ornamental pieces

Sand and stone:

Guyana possesses large quantities of sand and stone. These are mostly used in the construction of buildings and roads. The white sand can also be made into glass but Guyana is still to fully explore this potential. The brown sand in particular is used extensively in road construction. Sand is found throughout the Sand and Clay region of Guyana. Mining for stone takes place in the Teperu and Makouria areas.

ACTIVITY

1. Use an atlas and find an economic map of Guyana. Try to find out the names of communities where mining for gold and diamond takes place.
2. Use an outline map of Guyana and insert the gold and diamond mining areas.
3. One of the large mining companies in Guyana is Omai Gold Mines Ltd. Read about this company in your textbook-New Horizons in Social Studies-Bk. 2.

HOME WORK

Find out who is a pork-knocker.

Read about The Story of El Dorado in your social studies textbook. Why is this story very important to Guyana?

REFERENCE

Ministry of education Teacher's guide grade 8 pages 104 TO 107

Ministry of Education Curriculum Guide grade 8 page 12

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WEEK TWELVE

LESSON TWO (2)

Topic: Mineral Resources (Cont'd)

Sub Topic: Importance of Mineral resources

Objective: Students will:

- Describe the mining operations
- Locate on a map where these are mined.

Concept: Resources are the living and the non -living things which can be developed and made useful by man. Guyana has many resources which can be used to bring in revenue.

Content:

Many of the world's richest countries have benefited greatly from minerals extraction. Australia, Canada, Finland, Sweden, and the United States, for example, have all had extensive minerals industries and used them as a platform for broad-based industrial development. Guyana is no different since our country has gained and continue to gain revenue from our precious minerals.

The chart below shows revenue Guyana received from various countries for several resources.

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COUNTRY	SUGAR	RICE	BAUXITE	GOLD	DIAMOND	TIMBER
USA	345,626	-	-	-	-	-
CANADA	-	-	-	9,699,849	-	-
SPAIN	2,012,486	-	-	-	-	-
EEC	13,135,301	-	-	364,560	-	-
CARICOM	868,364	1,243,915	-	-	608,020	-
REST OF THE WORLD	1,211,220	8,998,222	11,986,700	3,725,651	69,440	805,980

Fig 7.: Destination of Main Exports from Guyana for 1995

(Value in SG1000)

ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF OUR MINERALS

1. When the raw material is manufactured further employment is created.
2. Guyana exports some of the finished goods and thus foreign exchange is earned.
3. There is a save on foreign since we do not have to import the products.
4. Indirect employment is created in the gold mining areas. Persons are self-employed as taxi drivers, store owners, tailors. hotel owners, etc.

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ACTIVITY

Study the chart above and answer the questions below.

1. Name the resources that were being exported.
2. Name three of the countries that are named in the chart.
3. Which resource yielded the most revenue?

REFERENCE

Ministry of education Teacher's guide grade 8 pages 104 TO 107

Ministry of Education Curriculum Guide grade 8 page 12