

18/10/23

## FOSSIL FUELS

Fossil fuels are natural fuels such as coal & crude oil formed from anaerobic decay of dead plants & animals that lived million years ago.

They are used as a source of fuel. These organisms decompose under high temperature & pressure over a period of million years and were converted to crude oil, coal and natural gas. This process of decay occurred in deep layers inside the earth. Crude oil is also known as petroleum. The word petroleum is derived from Latin words "petrol" which means "rock" and "leum" which means "oil".

### PETROLEUM

Petroleum is a dark brown or greenish viscous inflammable liquid made up of a complex mixture of several hydrocarbons.

### Types of Fossil Fuels

They are mainly three different types of fossil fuels i.e.

- > Natural gas
- > Oil / Crude oil
- > Natural coal

19/10/2023

Fossil fuel defines the way they are formed however fossil fuels have many physical & chemical properties in common. include:

- > All are natural resources
- > All are sources of energy
- > All are non-renewable

**Fuel:** This is a substance that produces energy in form of heat, light or electricity.

Coal: Is a black rock light solid obtained as a fossil fuel.

Crude oil: Is a thick dark brown or black or green

Natural gas: Is a fossil fuel formed from gradual decomposition of fossils.

### Stages of formation of fossil fuels

Plants & animals in ocean

Sand and silt. Plants and animal remains

Sand & silt rocks, oil and gas deposit.

#### Description

Plants & animals die and become buried at the bottom of the ocean at the bottom of the ocean with layers of sand and silt. After millions of years, and after more and more layers of sand and silt or sediments become deposited on these remains of organisms and they become buried deeper & deeper. Then these remains become compressed under high pressure and heat due to weight of the layers and are converted into oil and natural gas.

NOTE: Coal is formed by the action of heat and pressure on the remains of trees and plants on land over millions of years but crude oil is formed by the action of heat and pressure on the remains of sea plants & animals over millions of years.

Ques

Q1) Why do fossil fuels contain carbon?

Fossil fuels form rings and cyclic.

They form long chains.

2) Why are these fuels known as fossil fuels?

They are formed from anaerobic decay of dead plants and animals that lived million years ago.



Why do fossil fuels contain carbon  
They are produced from ~~plants~~ and animals which form Carbon.

Why are these fuels known as fossil fuels?  
Coz they were formed from fossils which were lived a million years ago and decomposed under high heat and pressure.

Why?

### HOW FOSSIL FUELS ARE EXTRACTED

There are two main methods of extracting fossil fuels from the ground and these are:

- > Mining
- > Drilling

Mining: is the extraction of solid fossil fuels from the ground earth e.g coal is extracted by digging underground or scraping from the surface.

Drilling: is a cutting process in which a drill bit is used to cut or enlarge a circular hole in a solid material. Crude oil & natural gas can easily be forced to flow to the surface using drilling method.

### FOSSIL FUELS AS A SOURCE OF ENERGY

Q. Why are fossil fuels used as a source of energy?

Ans. Fossil fuels are used as a source of energy because of their ability when burnt.

- > Fossil fuels are also cheap and easy to use.
- > This energy may also be in the form of electricity.

Uses of fossil fuels

Uses of crude oil	Uses of natural gas	Uses of coal
- For generation of electricity	- Used in air conditioning machine	Used as a source of heat energy.
- For making fuels for vehicles and jets	- Used as a fuel for cooking in gas stoves and heat in water at home & industries	- Used for generating electricity
- For producing many other useful substances (products called petrochemical products like plastics, lubricants, medicines and detergents)	- Used to generate electricity which is used in gold refineries, aluminium and steel industries	- Used in making products like dyes, medicines, soap and naphthalene balls
- For making fertilisers and pesticides	- For producing fertilisers, dyes, paints	- Used to make explosives, roofing materials and solvents.

### Natural Gas

Natural gas which is mainly methane is compressed at high pressure into liquefied form turning into liquid and is transported as Compressed Natural Gas (CNG).

The advantage of using natural gas is that it is less polluting than crude oil, coal, petrol and diesel.

Unlike natural gas, coal consists of elements like S, H and O. These elements are very reactive. This is why coal is highly combustible and also a heavy pollutant.

Coal is a cheaper source of fuel than natural gas or crude oil and as a result is used by many countries.

Other uses of fossil fuels

### Different kinds of fuels

- Diesel - Aviation - Propene gas
- Petrol - Paraffin

The benefits of these fuels include:

- For lighting in paraffin candles & paraffin lamps
- For running engines of vehicles, generators.
- For cooking in paraffin cookers and in gas stoves
- For metal smelting & welding
- For tarmaking roads



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The bi-products of crude oil are used to produce various products like tar for tarmacking roads, paint, plastics, manufacturing

Match the following

Product of crude oil	Use
Gas	Paints and tarmacking roads
Petrol	Fuel for home and industry
Bitumen (residue of crude oil)	Ointments, candles & varnish
Paraffin wax	Motor fuel and aviation fuel

Why fossil fuels are regarded as Non-renewable

> Fossil fuels cannot be replaced by natural processes.

NOTE:

When natural resources are like petroleum become depleted (used up) then the future generation cannot be able to benefit from it. This is because such resources cannot be regenerated / produced by any natural processes.

Sustainability

Means using a resource to meet our current needs without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their own needs. This means using resources <sup>in a way</sup> such that they can still be available for use for the future generations.

Non-renewable resource

Is a resource that cannot be replaced once used up.

Examples of Non-renewable resources

- Fossil fuels
- Nuclear energy
- Gold
- Copper
- Silver
- Diamond

Why fossil fuels are unsustainable

We cannot use them for a long time