

# MINING

- Mining is the extraction of valuable minerals or other geological materials from the earth from an ore body, lode, vein, seam, or reef, which forms the mineralized package of economic interest to the miner.
- Resource extraction involves any activity that withdraws resources from nature.
- Ores recovered by mining include metals, coal and oil shale, gemstones, limestone, and dimension stone, rock salt, and potash, gravel, and clay.

# EFFECTS OF MINING ON THE ENVIRONMENT

- Deforestation and **loss of biodiversity** are major effects of mining. (It destroys forest and wetlands)
- Many mine **require tailings dams to prevent waste being washed into the rivers**. Unethical miners can dispense with the dams, to save costs, resulting in **massive pollution downstream**. In other cases, the tailings dam can overflow, and even breach, during periods of heavy rain.
- Underground coal mining can require the **removal of almost an entire layer of material deep** under the surface.

- Some mining involves the **inadvertent dispersal of heavy metals**, such as lead, into the atmosphere. This can have serious health effects, including **mental retardation in children**.
- Asbestos mining causes the **dispersal of asbestos into the environment**. This will cause deaths among local residents and workers, often several decades later.



# WHAT CAN WE DO NOW?

- Find alternative resources.
- Develop **efficient and reliable renewable resources.**
- **Reduce** our use and avoid waste.
- **Reuse** what we can.
- **Recycle** (collect and reuse materials from waste) what we can

E.g.- Hybrid/electric cars, carpool, walk/ride a bike, turn off unneeded lights/electrical appliances, don't let water run, place recyclables in marked containers