**Why does the total amount of bitcoin set to be fixed?**

* Bitcoin **cannot simply be created arbitrarily**.
* Bitcoin must **be mined via digital means**.
* Linked with this process is the stipulation set forth by the founders of Bitcoin that, like gold, **it have a limited and finite supply**.
* In fact, there are only **21 million Bitcoins** that can be mined in total.
* Supporters of Bitcoin say that, like gold, the fixed supply of the currency means that **banks are kept in check and not allowed to arbitrarily issue fiduciary media**.
* What will happen when the global supply of Bitcoin reaches its limit?
  + Critics debate - miners will be forced away from the block rewards they receive for their work once the Bitcoin supply has reached 21 million in circulation. In this case, these miners may need to rely on transaction fees in order to maintain operations.
  + Supporters debate - miners will then find the process unaffordable, leading to a reduction in the number of miners, a centralization process of the Bitcoin network, and numerous negative effects on the Bitcoin system.