

Name: _____

Class:



Phosphate Mining Video: Multiple Choice and Writing Prompt

Directions: Write the correct answer on the line.

- _____1. Phosphorus _____.
 - a. Helps plants form proteins, starches, and growth hormones
 - b. Important catalyst for chemical reactions within plant cells.
 - c. Essential for chlorophyll formation.
 - d. Moves energy around the plant and makes photosynthesis possible.
- _____ 2. Phosphate is _____.
 - a. One of our nation's largest natural resources.
 - b. Mined in the Bone Valley region of central Florida.
 - c. Formed from the skeletons and decomposition for ancient sea creatures.
 - d. One of many nutrients that helps grow healthy plants.
 - e. All of the above.
 - f. None of the above.
- _____ 3. Fertilizer is responsible for ______ percent of world food production.
 - a. 15
 - b. 25
 - c. 50
 - d. 80
 - 4. After initially arriving at a fertilizer-manufacturing complex, phosphate rock is ground and mixed with water. Then, phosphate is pumped to an area where it reacts with _____.
 - a. Sulfuric acid.
 - b. Ammonium nitrogen.
 - c. Anhydrous ammonia.
 - d. Potash.
- 5. _____ is previously mined land that was carefully restored and reclaimed back into high-quality ecosystems.
 - a. Ecoplenish
 - b. Land reclamation
 - c. Land recovery
 - d. Beautification

Writing Assignment

After viewing the video on mining phosphate and reviewing other resources as needed, **write an essay** that summarizes the production of phosphate and its importance in food production, then **draw and label** five main steps in the phosphate mining process.



Answer Key

- 1. D
- 2. E
- 3. C
- 4. A
- 5. B

Writing Prompt

Coding: Essential Standards EEn = Earth/Environmental

Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects:

RST: Reading Standards for Literacy in Science and Technical Subjects WHST: Writing Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects

Note: Teachers may need to adjust the wording of writing assignment to meet the proficiency level of their English language learners and/or struggling readers. Teachers may also need to provide classroom modifications, such as pictures, word walls, sentence starters, and sentence frames, as appropriate.

Sample Answer:

Phosphorus, along with other essential nutrients, plays an important role in feeding the world. With phosphorus, plants are able to convert energy into usable energy, and therefore, photosynthesis is possible. Although nutrients are found naturally in the soil, they must be replenished once the land has been farmed and nutrients depleted. Phosphates in fertilizers help replenish the soil so the next crop of plants can grow healthy and strong.

Fertilizer companies create phosphate fertilizer through a mining process. Enormous machines called draglines carve phosphate rock out of the mine. Next, the phosphate is mixed with water into what is called a matrix consisting of sand, clay and phosphate. The matrix is hydro-blasted and then pumped into the processing plant. At the plant, the matrix is separated through a high-tech process and transported to a fertilizer-manufacturing complex. Machines grind the phosphate rock into a powder and mix with water. Next, it is pumped to another area of the processing plant, where it reacts with sulfuric acid to form phosphoric acid. Finally, the fertilizer plant combines the phosphoric acid with anhydrous ammonia to produce the final fertilizer product.

Draw and Label: 1. Enormous machines called draglines carve phosphate out of a mine. 2. Matrix (sand, clay and phosphate) is hydro-blasted and then pumped to the processing plant. 3. The matrix is separated and transported to a manufacturing processing plant. 4. Phosphate rock is ground in powder and mixed with water. 5. Next, it is mixed with sulfuric acid to form phosphoric acid. Then it is combined with anhydrous ammonia to produce fertilizer.



Sample Writing Rubric:

Category:	4	3	2	1
Accuracy of Facts	All facts about the	1 or 2 steps of the	3 to 4 steps of the	None of the facts
	mining process are	mining process are	mining process are	are correct
	reported	incorrect, but	incorrect, but	
	accurately.	others are correct.	others are correct.	
World Connection	The phosphate	The food	The food	Food production to
(Food Production)	mining connection	production	production	phosphate mining
	to food production	connection is	connection is not	is mentioned, but it
	is successfully	attempted but not	strongly described.	not explained.
	stated.	fully stated.		
Visual	All 5 visuals and 5	1 or 2 of the	3 or 4 of the	None of the
	labels are correct	visuals and labels	visuals and labels	visuals are correct
	and recognizable.	are incorrect and	are incorrect and	or recognizable.
		unrecognizable.	unrecognizable.	
Grammar &	Writer makes no	Writer makes 1 to	Writer makes 3 to	Writer makes more
Spelling	errors in grammar	2 errors in	4 errors in	than 4 errors in
	or spelling that	grammar or	grammar or	grammar or
	distracts the reader	spelling that	spelling that	spelling that
	from the content.	distract the reader	distract the reader	distracts the reader
		from content.	from content.	from the content.