

Mining Reclamation Research Project

(Adapted by S. Tury from: <http://www.teachcoal.org>)

Since coal is an abundant and relatively inexpensive source of energy that easily generates electricity, coal mining will remain a mainstay of the American economy. And, as long as mining continues, mining companies will accept responsibility for the restoration of the land and preservation of the environment.

We will divide into five research groups. You will be researching successful (in fact, award-winning) reclamation projects. Each group will be assigned one of the following reclamation projects: the Vindex Reclamation Project in Maryland, the Klueh Reclamation Project in Indiana, the Pleasant View Mine Project in Kentucky, the Blackwater River Limestone Drum Station in West Virginia, and the Old Ben Scout Reservation AMD (Acid Mine Drainage) Lakes in Indiana. Each of these projects was conducted by a mining company and received recognition from the federal Department of the Interior's Office of Surface Mining (OSM) for their work.

1. Utilize the links below to answer the following questions:
 - ❖ What was the original mining operation? When was the area last mined?
 - ❖ When did the project begin?
 - ❖ What were some of the environmental conditions that needed to be considered?
 - ❖ What specific measures were involved in the reclamation project?
 - ❖ What was the goal of the project?
 - ❖ How is the land being used now?
 - ❖ Who were some of the professionals involved in the project?

2. After finishing the research, each group will illustrate their findings with a power point presentation and share their presentation with the rest of the class.

Links:

Vindex Reclamation Project, Maryland

<http://www.mde.state.md.us/Programs/WaterPrograms/MiningInMaryland/ReclamRevitalize/vindexReclamation.asp>

<http://www.osmre.gov/award01md.htm>

Klueh Reclamation Project, Greencastle, Indiana

<http://www.osmre.gov/sycamoretrailsproject.htm>

Pleasant View Mine Project, Kentucky

http://www.surfacemining.ky.gov/aml/projects/pleasant_view.htm

<http://www.osmre.gov/award00ky.htm>

Blackwater River Limestone Drum Station, West Virginia

<http://www.mii.org/blackwater/blackwater.html>

<http://www.osmre.gov/awardwv.htm>

**Old Ben Scout Reservation AMD (Acid Mine Drainage) Lakes,
Indiana**

<http://www.mcrcc.osmre.gov/Indianapolis/OBSC.htm>

FUN STUFF!! When your project is **TOTALLY** complete, take the Office of Surface Mining's reclamation quiz found at: <http://www.osmre.gov/qttest.htm>

Those that successfully answer the correct number of questions can win a sticker from the Department of Surface Mining.

