

Sign up for one of the following commodities:

graphite	platinum-group metals	gypsum
barite	pumice	manganese
limestone	silicon	mica
fluorspar	tin	potash
chromium	iron	silver
copper	clays	zeolite
magnesium	granite	talc
molybdenum	lead	zinc
nickel	feldspar	

Note: Some of the **commodities** in the list above are **mineral resources** (rocks and minerals), whereas others are elements extracted from mineral resources.

Use what you have learned about mineral resources as well as information about your specific commodity to draw a concept map showing:

- The geologic nature of the resource: for example, what is the mineral resource and the resultant commodity (mineral, rock, or element); what mineral and rock forming processes acted to create the commodity; in what geologic/geographic settings might these processes have occurred?
- The factors and people (people could be countries, companies, etc.) who determine the demand for the resource: for example, what is the commodity used for, who uses it, and what other things might influence the demand for this resource?
- The methods of mining and processing the commodity: for example, how and where does mining and processing occur; what environmental impacts occur; who is impacted by the overall mineral recovery process and in what ways?

Ideally, you should start this as soon as possible, filling in as much as you already know. Throughout this module, **add to your concept map** as you learn more about the commodity you choose and about mineral resources in general. You will use materials that you are learning in class, but you will also need to do *extra research and work outside of the class*.

Resources that may be helpful in addition to class may include your textbook(s), the USGS Minerals Yearbook website (<http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/myb.html>), the Mineral Information Institute website (<http://www.mii.org/welcome>), as well as other Web pages. When you turn in the assignment, please include a list of the sources (with Web addresses as appropriate) that you used to complete your concept map, although you do not have to denote which information you obtained from each source.