

PRE-VISIT ACTIVITIES

Vocabulary / Topics for your Students to Investigate

The following is a short list of terms/topics related to the Britannia Mine (and mining in general) that your students can investigate.

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|------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Non-renewable resource | Froth flotation | Pyrite |
| Ore | Concentrate | Fool's gold |
| Lode | Smelter | Acid rock drainage |
| Diamond drilling | Chalcopyrite | Remediation |
| Stope | Native metal | |

Questions for your Students to Investigate and Explore

The following statements each have three questions of varying difficulty making them suitable for different grades.

Community

Britannia Beach was part of the **Company Town** of the Britannia Mine. That meant that the only people that could live in the **community** were the workers at the mine and their families – that included all the jobs such as teachers, doctors, engineers or cooks.

- What features do company towns have in common?
- What do you think life was like in a community like this?
- In north America, what factors led to the fall of the 'Company Town' and why is the concept unlikely to be resurrected in modern society?

Until the railway was built in 1956, the Britannia Mine was very **isolated**. The only way to get there, to get to the people that lived there and to bring in supplies, was to spend a few hours on a steamship from Vancouver. This made the **community spirit** very strong and the people very self-sustaining.

- Why do you think that was the case?
- After the highway to Vancouver was built in 1958, the community spirit began to decline. What would have been the biggest factor that caused this?
- Today, technology has made us a global community. How can this affect small, individual communities like Britannia Beach – positively and negatively?

Mining in Society

Minerals are a **non-renewable resource** and must be mined **sustainably**.

- What does this mean?
- Why does it make it important for everyone to be sustainable in the way we live – to reduce or refuse, reuse and recycle?
- What does the future hold if globally, nations do not accept responsibility for their use of all forms of non-renewable resources?

Everything **manmade** has been made from components – or ingredients – that have either been **grown or mined**.

- Can you list ten examples of items found in your house that have been made from mined materials and five examples that are made from grown materials? Hint: mined materials don't just include metals.
- Why has the use of minerals been so important to the growth of society in the last few thousand years?
- Mined minerals are important in green technologies because of their properties such as durability, conductivity or heat resistance. Find examples and explain why they can help us be sustainable?

Technology

In the last 100 years, the **technology** – machines and equipment – used in mines has become bigger and more **automated**.

- Why has this happened?
- How do you think it has changed the role of a miner?
- How can technology help mining become more sustainable?

Websites for Further Research

The following websites may provide useful information for your students' research.

Mineral Resources Education Program of BC – www.bcminerals.ca

Mining Matters - www.pdac.ca/miningmatters/ (this site contains links to many other useful sites)

Geology.com - geology.com/minerals/

Natural Resources Canada (Mining & Minerals) - www.nrcan.gc.ca/mms-smm/index-eng.htm