



Coal Facts Bingo

Brown/ Crumbly	Shiny/ Metallic	Hard Coal	Soft Coal
Burns Cleaner	Formed in Mountains of Pennsylvania	Formed right after Peat	Low Heat Content
Spongey	Free Space	Purer Form	Most Common Type of Coal
Used in Soil Today	Has three layers	Used to heat homes	Lowest Rank of Coal



Teacher/Activity Facilitator Notes

Depending on the age of group, complete one of the following:

Read “How Coal was Formed” (as they follow along on their study buddy)

- Send home accompanying study buddy for home study over the week (or a time allotment of your choosing). Then, play bingo with students.

Present “Fueling America: A Coal/Coal Mining Overview”

- Send home accompanying study buddy, and/or have students take notes on presentation. Then, play bingo with students.

Playing Coal Facts Bingo (regular card)

Simply write out the following words on scraps of paper:

Bituminous

Anthracite

Lignite

Peat

Then, fold the papers, put them in a basket, and randomly select one at a time. The students will have to know the characteristics/facts of each type of coal in order to know where to place their bingo markers.

Playing Coal Facts Bingo (picture card)

Alternatively, use picture bingo card and tailor facts/characteristics from the regular card to your group’s capabilities. In this case, facts/characteristics should be written on scrap papers.

*Bingo is saved as a Word document so that you can create more bingo cards. You will have to shuffle up the facts on each card.



Coal Facts Bingo

			
			
	Free Space		
			



How Coal is Formed

Three-hundred million years ago, the earth was covered with huge swampy forests of giant ferns, reeds, and mosses. Some of these plants died and fell into the swamp waters and new ones grew in their place. This happened in a cycle until there was a thick layer of dead plants and animals rotting in the swamp. A change in the earth's surface washed in dirt and water stopping the plants from rotting even further.

The cycle didn't stop. Plants kept growing, dying, and falling until a separate layer formed. Millions of years helped create many layers one on top of the other. Heat and pressure changed the plant layers pushing oxygen out and leaving carbon behind. These decayed, or rotted, plants, leaves, and bark became **Peat**.

Peat, the youngest of them all, is the first stage before the rotted plants, leaves, and bark became coal. Peat is brown, crumbly, and spongy. It is used today for soil in places like golf courses and lawns. Peat formed first, and then turned into different kinds of coal like **lignite**, **bituminous** and **anthracite**.

Lignite is the lowest rank of coal and has the lowest heat content. With added heat and pressure, **bituminous coal** was formed.

Bituminous coal, also known as soft coal, is the most common type of coal. Bituminous coal looks smooth at first glance, but actually has 3 layers – vitrain, clarain, and fusain. Vitrain is glass-like wood. Clarain is dull and grayish and is formed out of plant debris. Fusain is charcoal-like and is chemically changed wood.

Anthracite coal, the final stage of coal, is known as hard coal, is black and metallic-looking. Anthracite coal is used for heating homes. It is also found almost entirely in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Coal's Family

Study Buddy

The Coal family comes in all shapes, sizes, and colors. Study the family tree below.

