



Brazil's Rare Earths: A Snapshot of China's Mineral Dominance

Description

There is a big hole near a small town in Brazil. This hole is a mine that can help the West get important rare earth metals. These metals are needed to make electric cars, wind turbines, and other technology.

The mine opened last year. It is the only mine outside of Asia that produces a lot of rare earth metals. American investors support this mine.

China controls most of the rare earth metals. Recently, China stopped selling some of these metals because of trade problems. The U.S. government wants to help expand the Brazil mine to get more of these metals.

However, the mine has already promised to sell its metals to China. Thras Moraitis, the boss of the mine, said that China is very good at processing these metals. They have worked hard for many years to be in this strong position.

The mine in Brazil shows that the West is behind in getting the minerals it needs. China is very strong in mining and processing rare earths. These are 17 important elements that are crucial for cars, electronics, and defense.

Even though these elements are found on Earth, they are hard to extract. The U.S. and other countries have mostly let China do this work.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Mine** /maɪn/ (noun): A site where minerals or other materials are extracted from the earth.
2. **Metals** /'metəlz/ (noun): Elements that are typically hard shiny malleable and good conductors of heat and electricity.
3. **Expand** /ɪk'spænd/ (verb): To increase in size number or importance.
4. **Processing** /'prəʊsesɪŋ/ (noun): The act of converting raw materials into a usable form.
5. **Extract** /ɪk'strækt/ (verb): To remove or take out especially by effort or force.
6. **Crucial** /'kruːʃəl/ (adjective): Decisive or critical especially in the success or failure of something.

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. Where is the mine located that can help the West get rare earth metals?
Option: Brazil
Option: Asia
Option: China
Option: United States

2. Which country controls most of the rare earth metals?
Option: Brazil
Option: China
Option: United States
Option: Australia

3. Who supports the mine in Brazil?
Option: Asian investors
Option: European investors
Option: American investors
Option: African investors

4. What technology are rare earth metals needed for?
Option: Mobile phones
Option: Electric cars
Option: Agriculture equipment
Option: Textile machinery

5. Which region is behind in getting the minerals it needs according to the passage?
Option: East
Option: West
Option: North
Option: South

6. What industry are rare earth metals crucial for?
Option: Food
Option: Defense
Option: Fashion
Option: Construction



True-False

7. The mine in Brazil is the only mine in Asia that produces rare earth metals.
8. China recently started selling more rare earth metals due to trade agreements.
9. The U.S. government wants to limit the production of rare earth metals in Brazil.
10. China is very good at processing rare earth metals, according to Thras Moraitis.
11. Rare earth metals are easy to extract from Earth.
12. Most countries have relied on China for mining and processing rare earth elements.

Gap-Fill

16. However, the mine has already promised to sell its metals to _____.
18. The U.S. and other countries have mostly let _____ do the work of extracting rare earth metals.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Brazil 2. China 3. American investors 4. Electric cars 5. West 6. Defense

True-False: 7. False 8. False 9. False 10. True 11. False 12. True

Gap-Fill: 16. China

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. Which industry involves the extraction and processing of valuable materials like iron and copper?



-
- Option: Electronics
Option: Metals
Option: Automotive
Option: Textiles
2. What term is used to describe the conversion of raw materials into finished products?
Option: Regulations
Option: Mining
Option: Demand
Option: Processing
3. What consequences may be imposed for not following rules or laws in a specific industry?
Option: Emission
Option: Penalties
Option: Tariff
Option: Exemptions
4. What is the process of powering a device using electricity?
Option: Excitement
Option: Rely
Option: Electrifying
Option: Stable
5. What is the tax imposed on goods when they are moved across a political boundary?
Option: Increased
Option: Consumer
Option: Tariff
Option: Gains
6. What aspect is affected when there is contamination from coliform in food products?
Option: Health
Option: Packages
Option: Rare
Option: Recalling
7. What feeling might consumers have when anticipating a new product release?
Option: Hopeful
Option: Stable
Option: Dropped
Option: Excitement
8. Which type of materials are not easily found in nature and are of high value?
Option: Affected



- Option: Rely
- Option: Rare
- Option: Expand

9. What is the positive outcome of increasing profits or advantages in a business?

- Option: Coliform
- Option: Gains
- Option: Demand
- Option: Mining

10. Which term refers to a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common?

- Option: Mining
- Option: Community
- Option: Regulations
- Option: Mining

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. Meeting industry _____ is crucial to ensure the safety and compliance of operations.

12. Some businesses may qualify for tax _____ if they meet specific criteria set by the government.

13. Understanding consumer _____ helps companies develop products that meet market needs.

14. The company experienced _____ sales after launching its new advertising campaign.

15. The company issued a product recall due to complaints from several _____ about malfunctioning devices.

16. The manufacturer is _____ a batch of contaminated food packages to prevent health risks.

17. A _____ supply chain is essential for the smooth operation of a manufacturing



business.

18. Investors are _____ for positive returns after the company announced its expansion plans.

19. Companies often _____ on advanced technology to improve production efficiency.

20. The process of _____ involves extracting valuable minerals or other geological materials from the earth.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. Strict standards are in place to control pollutants released into the atmosphere.
22. The new regulations require companies to use eco-friendly for their products.
23. The presence of bacteria in water sources can indicate potential contamination.
24. The recent tariff increase the company's profit margins.
25. The local community protested against the environmental impact of the new mine.
26. Import may influence the competitiveness of foreign products in the local market.
27. Manufacturers on efficient logistics to deliver products to customers on time.
28. The company aims to its market presence by entering new territories.
29. Employee training is for maintaining a high standard of service quality.
30. The discovery of a new mineral deposit sparked interest among geologists worldwide.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Metals 2. Processing 3. Penalties 4. Electrifying 5. Tariff 6. Health 7. Excitement 8. Rare 9. Gains 10. Community

Gap-Fill: 11. Regulations 12. Exemptions 13. Demand 14. Increased 15. Consumer 16. Recalling 17. Stable 18. Hopeful 19. Rely 20. Mining

Matching sentence: 1. Emission 2. Packages 3. Coliform 4. Affected 5. Mining 6. Tariffs 7. Rely 8. Expand 9. Crucial



10. Rare

CATEGORY

1. Business - LEVEL1

Date Created

2025/04/17

Author

aimeeyoung99

ESL-NEWS.COM