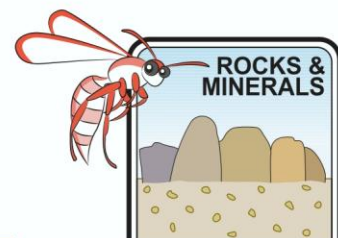


Mineral Resources – Teacher Background



We live in a resource rich state and in a resource rich country!



Gold in quartz

World commodity production 2011 (excluding oil & gas)

Commodity	WA	Australia	World	WA% of world
Iron Ore (Mt)	427	441	2,080	21
Alumina (Mt)	12	10	87	14
Nickel (000t)	212	212	1,580	13
Garnet (000t)	150	150	1,400	11
Zircon (000t)	106	762	1,442	7
Gold (t)	180	258	2,763	6
Ilmenite (000t)	726	1,277	11,310	6
Diamond (000ct)	7,562	7,562	144,000	5

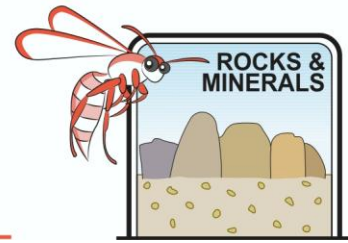
Western Australia accounted for 70% of Australia's export merchandise to China. In the same period 8.2% of the population of WA was directly employed in mining and 10% in construction.

In 2012 WA contributed 46% of Australia's merchandise exports. This was higher than the share of NSW, Victoria and Queensland combined.

Regional Commodity Production (\$million)

REGION	2011-12	MAIN COMMODITIES
Pilbara	84,453	Iron ore 69%, oil & gas 26%
Goldfields-Esperance	9,145	Gold 66%, nickel 31%
Peel	5,229	Alumina (76%)
Wheatbelt	2,671	Iron ore (50%)
Mid West	2,405	Gold, 35%, iron ore 25%
Kimberley	1,380	Iron ore 54%, diamonds/oil 25%
South West	596	Coal 49%, mineral sands 31%
Gascoyne	124	Salt & gems 99%
Perth	36	Construction materials, silica & limestone sand 100%
Great Southern	6	Spongelite, silica and limestone sand 100%

Mineral Resources – Teacher Background



Data on the previous page is extracted from Department of State Development, Western Australia economic profile Feb. 2013. The document contains more information and can be downloaded from <http://www.dsd.wa.gov.au/documents/000959.mike.thomas.pdf>

Generally people classify minerals into rock forming minerals and ores. Ores are minerals which can be mined for profit but are a very small percentage of minerals on Earth.

Students could be asked to report on the major mineral resources of three regions of WA (excepting Peel and Perth)

