

# HOW COAL WAS FORMED

COAL: a fossil fuel formed in the geological past from the remains of living organisms.



300 million years ago plants died and were buried under dirt and water



**Peat**

## PRESSURE AND HEAT



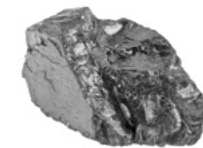
**Lignite (brown coal)**

Lowest rank of coal used almost exclusively as fuel for electric power generation



**Sub-bituminous coal (soft coal)**

Used as fuel for steam-electric power generation



**Bituminous coal (soft coal)**

Dense, black or dark brown sedimentary rock used primarily as fuel in steam electric power generation, or heat and power applications in manufacturing and to make coke

Two types: thermal and metallurgical



**Anthracite (hard coal)**

Most mature coal, with highest carbon content of any type of coal, used primarily for residential and commercial space heating



### DID YOU KNOW?

Jet is a compact form of lignite that is sometimes polished and used as an ornamental stone.