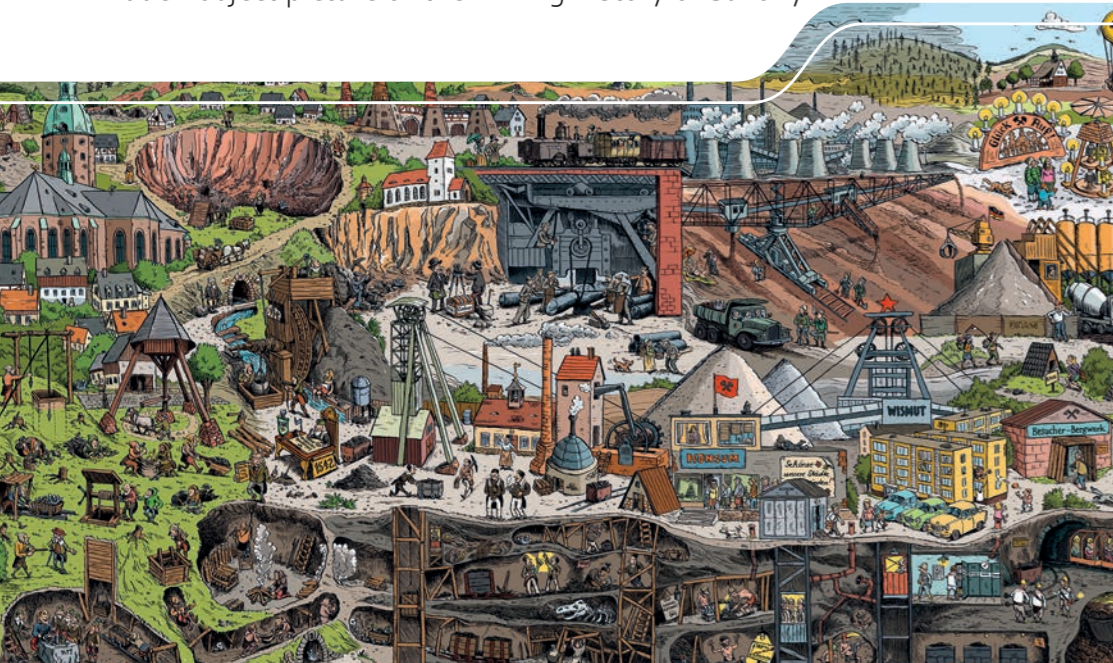


Saxony unearths its treasures

Hidden object picture of the mining history of Saxony



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Early mining

Silver mining



In the Middle Ages, miners searched for silver, copper and tin. Back then, work was tough and treacherous. Miners often had only a short life.

Sustainability



The Erzgebirgswald (Ore Mountains Forest) was almost completely cleared for mining and ore processing. Hans Carl von Carlowitz decreed that you could chop down only as many trees as would grow back.



Altenberg sinkhole

In the 16th century, the collapse of the tin mine created a huge sinkhole. It is so large, it could hold the Great Pyramid of Giza from Egypt. Can you imagine that?



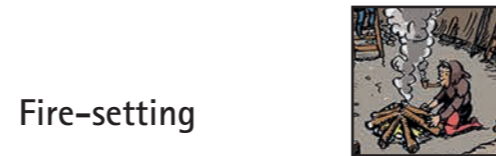
Foundation of the Mining Office

In 1542, the Mining Office was set up in order to enforce mining law and collect taxes in the event of disputes. The mining office still exists today.

Ore Mountains settlement



Many people from Franconia and the Harz mountains were attracted by the mining industry and settled in the Ore Mountains (Erzgebirge). Many towns and villages were built. One of these was Marienberg.



Fire-setting

Rock becomes brittle when it heats up rapidly and then cools down. This happens during fire-setting and makes mining much easier. But it leaves a huge mess in the pits!



St Anne's Church

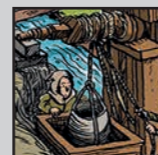
Mining made the towns in the Ore Mountains quite rich. This meant that large churches – such as the hall church in Annaberg-Buchholz – were built. Have you ever been there?



Silver table in Schneeberg

In 1477, miners found a large block of silver in Schneeberg. Duke Albrecht and his followers used it as a table for a feast.

Waterworks



In the early days of mining, the machines were driven by water power. The water ran to the shafts via artificial ditches, and the power was transferred with water wheels and rods.



Industrialisation

Industrial production



During the Industrial Revolution, many large factories were built, and new goods were produced on assembly lines. Raw materials such as non-ferrous metals (metals that don't contain iron) were in demand. There was quite an economic boom.



Railways and steam engines

The first railway in Saxony – the Leipzig–Dresden line – was established in 1839. This was the first German long-distance line with the Saxonia and Phoenix locomotives.

Lime kilns



Lime was burnt to make mortar in these kilns. Today you can visit the kilns in the museum in Pockau-Lengefeld.

The GDR era



Lignite

Lignite was the most important source of energy in the German Democratic Republic (GDR). It often lies just a few metres below the surface and can be extracted in open-cast mines.

Economy of scarcity



Some consumer goods made from raw materials were difficult to obtain in the GDR. Long queues formed when something "special" like tiles were sold. You even had to wait several years for a car.

Church quarry of Beucha



Porphyritic granite, an excellent building stone, was quarried around the church in Beucha. The Monument to the Battle of the Nations in Leipzig was built with these stones.



Metal working

Quite a lot of heat is required to process metal. The burning of hard coal produces high temperatures. This is why metal factories were set up near coal deposits. For example, in Freital.

Non-ferrous metal



During the Industrial Revolution, non-ferrous metals in particular were mined underground. These included tin, copper and nickel. Thanks to new technology, mining and the processing of mineral resources improved.



WISMUT uranium mining

The Soviet-German joint stock company Wismut mined the radioactive metal uranium in the GDR. During the Cold War, this were used mainly to build nuclear weapons for the Soviet Union.

Environmental pollution



The raw materials industry released unfiltered waste gases into nature. Many people, animals and plants suffered as a result. The region around Leipzig was particularly affected.

Today

Saxony unearths its treasures



The ROHSA 3 project group at the State Office for the Environment, Agriculture and Geology is digitising old mining and raw materials files (turning them into a form that a computer can understand and use) These files are very valuable because they contain a lot of information about what's underground.



Raw building materials

Raw materials such as sand, gravel, hard rock, clay and loam are very important for building and road construction.

Freiberg University of Mining and Technology



At this university in Freiberg you can study geology, mining and geo-ecology. These professions are important for modern mining.



Ore Mountain traditions

Many traditions have developed around mining in the Ore Mountains. Do you know the candle arches and pyramids or the miner and angel figures?

Visitor mines



Some of the old mines are now open to visitors. You can discover a lot underground. Have you ever been to the Reichen Zeche mine in Freiberg?



Modern mining

Even today, a wide variety of raw materials are mined and explored in Saxony. Modern mining is now much easier and safer for people thanks to large machines.

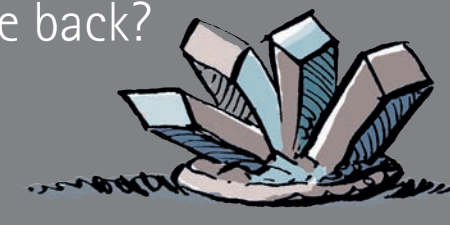
Cultural landscape



Mining has existed in Saxony for eight centuries. It has changed the landscape considerably. In many places, you will find tips, sinkholes, historic buildings and quarry ponds.

RIDDLE

How many crystals can you find in the hidden object picture on the back?





Glocke

KARL-KEGEL-BAU

WISMUT

KONSUM

Besucher-Bergwerk

Projekt ROHSA

SACHSEN

TWO KIRCHENS 2018