

Geoscenario Specialists: Coal Country, West Virginia



Geologist Erika Lentz examines Pennsylvanian coal samples in West Virginia.

A **geologist** interprets and explains information that can be learned from rocks, rock formations, and landforms. Geologists can determine the date of geological events by using radiometric dating or relative dating.



Geographer

A **geographer** studies the physical features of Earth, its atmosphere, and how these features relate to human activity. Geographers find information about distribution of populations, resources, land use, and industries by interviewing people, reading personal diaries, and researching various types of records.



Coal mining engineer

A **coal mining engineer** plans mining operations and determines whether coal deposits can be mined profitably. Coal mining engineers design mine shafts and tunnels, design equipment that cuts coal, or select explosives to blast coal deposits. Engineers decide where to dig pits, where to put excavated rock and soil, and help plan ways of restoring the land around mine sites.



Environmental officer

An **environmental officer** works to protect or improve environmental quality and public health, control pollution, remedy environmental damages, and ensure compliance with environmental laws, regulations, and permits.