Geology: Mining Concepts

Exercise: 1

Instructions: The gold rush is what brought most of the early white settlers to Idaho. Although many of them did not get rich, mining is an important industry in Idaho to this day. Idaho is rich in minerals and should be able to supply our economy with mineral products for many years. The following exercise will help you to gain knowledge of this important industry. Use your knowledge to answer the following questions:

- 1. Why did miners have to use machinery to make money from mining?
- 2. What is Idaho's Coeur d'Alene mining district famous for?
- 3. Which mineral product is Southeast Idaho Famous for?
- 4. What are the most important metals found in Idaho?
- 5. What are industrial minerals?
- 6. What are the most important industrial minerals in Idaho?

7. What were Idaho's six most valuable minerals produced in 1974? Name them in order beginning with the highest dollar value. Compare these to 1998 values. What trends (if any) do you see? What might explain such changes?

- 8. Why was Stibnite important during World War II?
- 9. What is phosphate used for?