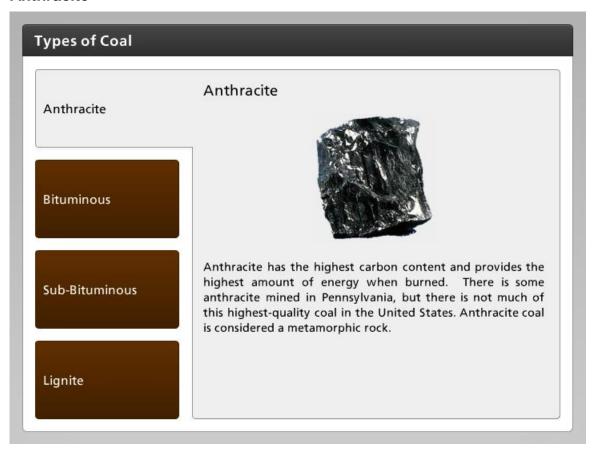
Introduction



There are four different types of coal that are burned to produce electricity. The age of the coal and the conditions that existed during the coal's formation produce four varieties. In this interactivity, click on each of the tabs to learn about the different types of coal.



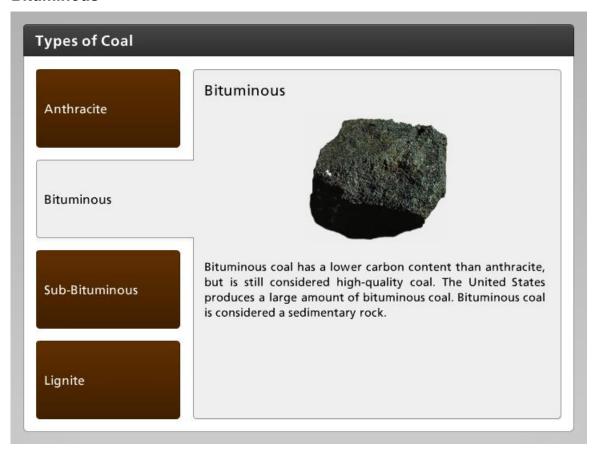
Anthracite



Anthracite has the highest carbon content and provides the highest amount of energy when burned. There is some anthracite mined in Pennsylvania, but there is not much of this highest-quality coal in the United States. Anthracite coal is considered a metamorphic rock.



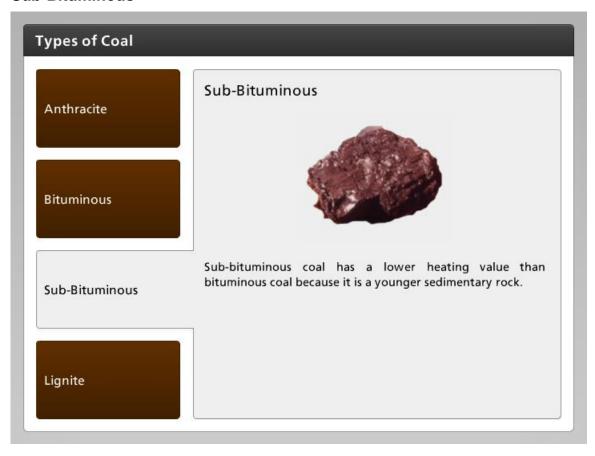
Bituminous



Bituminous coal has a lower carbon content than anthracite, but is still considered high-quality coal. The United States produces a large amount of bituminous coal. Bituminous coal is considered a sedimentary rock.



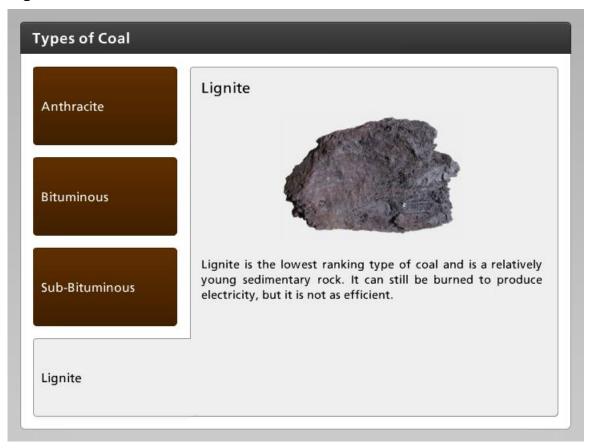
Sub-Bituminous



Sub-bituminous coal has a lower heating value than bituminous coal because it is a younger sedimentary rock.



Lignite



Lignite is the lowest ranking type of coal and is a relatively young sedimentary rock. It can still be burned to produce electricity, but it is not as efficient.

