

In countries that are poor but endowed with Earth resource, these resources have been controlled by foreign interests, especially when the country was a foreign colony. Even with independence, resource control continued to be in the hands of foreign interests, but in collaboration with local elites. Such a situation has been common for most Latin American countries over the past 150-200 years. The spread of democracy in Latin America in the past 30 years has been dramatic, and the mass of poor people as well as an emerging middle class have had a much greater political voice. Their interests are being addressed in varying degrees across Latin America, including in how their nation's Earth resources will be extracted, marketed and the profits used by the government. What structures and practices will best provide benefits to the people of the country? That is the question that drives this lab on copper.



Peru's Toquepala copper mine is 6.5 km across and 3 km deep.

The primary literacy of this lab is the recognition of the importance of history. History is not only a record of past events, but a memory that informs current attitudes, opinions and decisions. This lab also offers the opportunity to examine the international economic system, especially those ideas and forces that are pushing globalization in a neo-liberal direction (versus a planned economy or an explicit emphasis on social welfare). Finally, one of the major issues facing all

countries in the world today is the question of whether or not to treat their Earth resources as a public good owned and directly controlled by the government acting on behalf of the people as a whole. In the United States, most Earth resources are privately owned and when the government owns them (e.g. mineral rights on federal land), they are more or less purchased by private corporations through leasing agreements. This is very exceptional, for across the globe most Earth resources are owned by governments who retain ownership, even when corporations are allowed to mine or drill for them. What practice would best serve countries that are currently poor, but rich in Earth-resource? We will explore this in the case of Peru and Copper.

This lab will investigate the social and political impacts the copper industry in Peru. In particular, it will:

- examine the economic entities that have been created to extract a nation's mineral wealth;
- explore the types of mechanisms governments use to tax resource producers;
- the impact of history on how a nation decides to manage its mineral wealth; and
- the political mechanisms by which a democracy decides how to exploit its mineral wealth.

Next week your presidential candidate will give his/her campaign speech we will conduct a secret presidential Peruvian election. You will also turn in your completed worksheets reflecting your deliberations on these issues. Your worksheets will be graded using the following [rubric](#). No oral or written presentations for this lab.

Embedded Literacies

Citizenship Literacies - Critical Thinking

	Consequences	Impacts	Externalities /Costs	Reconciliation
Basic				
Intermediate				
Advanced	X	X	X	X

Citizenship Literacies - Social Context

	Population	Economics	History	Connections
Basic	X			
Intermediate			X	
Advanced		X		X



[[Lab Listing](#)]

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