

What is there in Coal?

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Coal is a sedimentary rock, made up mainly of organic matter derived from plant debris. The plant debris accumulates in swampy environments as beds of peat, which are then buried, compressed, and heated over geological time to form coal seams. Coals are distinguished from each other by the mixture of plant components that formed the original peat (the coal type), and also by the extent to which the organic components have been changed by burial and heating (the coal rank). The overall proportion of organic material as compared to ash-forming mineral matter (the coal grade) is also important in coal marketing and use.