

READ THE PASSAGE As you read, think of questions about the topic of shale oil.**Oil from a Stone**

It may seem impossible to remove oil from a stone, but that hasn't stopped people from trying. Scientists argue that with new technology and creative thinking, getting oil from a stone may not be as difficult as we think. Of course, it also takes the right kind of rocks.

Shale oil is oil that exists in solid form within rock. This unique oil was formed from fossilized creatures from the Tertiary (TUR-shee-air-ee) period, about 65 million years ago, and high levels of heat and pressure.

Mining shale oil is much more difficult than removing liquid oil. Workers must take extra care to protect the surrounding area during this difficult procedure. Otherwise, the process can cause erosion and can pollute the groundwater. In addition, shale oil must be heated to extreme temperatures and must be refined even further after it has been pulled from the ground. The refining process, like the mining process, takes a lot of water. This is another serious concern.

Although it is hard to collect, shale oil has long-term potential. There is enough shale oil in the western United States to meet current oil demands for about 400 years. Some people say that with enough funding for research, shale oil could be collected easily one day.

STRATEGY PRACTICE Write a question that the passage answers. Then have a partner answer it.

SKILL PRACTICE Read the item. Write your response.

- Write two reasons why retrieving shale oil is dangerous for the environment.

- Cite the sentence in the text that lets you know the author's opinion of shale oil. Use quotation marks.

- What is the purpose of the final paragraph?
