**Guided Notes: Land Reclamation**

Land reclamation is the effort to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ land degraded by mining operations to mitigate environmental damage.

**Key Concepts:**

• Approximately \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ million acres of land have been surface mined in the United States.

• The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ set standards for mining reclamation.

• Mining companies must now present a detailed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ plan before mining can begin.

• Three major components of land reclamation are:

 1. Replacing and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ land where digging occurred

 2. Cleanup of environmental \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and contamination

 3. Revitalizing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or developing land for appropriate use

• Challenges of land reclamation include:

 - Setting \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and measurements for success

 - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of interest between mining companies and environmental goals

 - High \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of reclamation projects

• Funding for reclamation can come from mining companies, federal grants, mining fees, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ organizations.

• Successful reclamation should inform decisions about permitting \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ mining operations.



**Real World Examples:**

1. Smartphone Manufacturing: Students can research how companies that produce smartphone components are addressing land reclamation after mining \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ minerals.

2. Local Environment: Students can investigate if there are any reclaimed mining sites in their local area and evaluate the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the reclamation efforts.

**Word Bank:**

restore

8.4

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reclamation

reforming

hazards

ecosystems

standards

conflicts

costs

environmental

new

rare earth

success