Geologist

Geologists study the composition, structure and other physical attributes of the earth to increase scientific knowledge and to develop practical applications in fields such as mineral exploitation, civil engineering, environmental protection and rehabilitation of land after mining.

Overview

As a Geologist you will undertake field work, laboratory and computer-based work to explore the earth for resources such as metals, oil, natural gas and water, or study the changes of the earth over time. You may work in a variety of areas including mineralogy, petrology, geological mapping, economic and petroleum geology.

Day-to-day

- Conduct preliminary surveys of mineral, petroleum and natural gas deposits with prospectors, mining engineers, metallurgist and other mineral scientists
- Prepare and supervise the production of laboratory reports and scientific papers
- Conduct studies of the structure, nature and formation of the earth's crust and the minerals contained in it
- Study and date fossils and rock strata to develop knowledge of the evolution and biology of life forms, and to assess their commercial applications
- Study the effects of natural events, such as erosion, sedimentation, earthquakes and volcanic activity, on the formation of the earth's surface and seabeds

To become a Geologist

To become a geologist, you usually have to complete a degree in science or applied science with a major in geology, geoscience, applied geology, geophysics or earth sciences.

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