

There's Much to **Learn** about

Uranium

Many of us know uranium can be used to generate electricity at a nuclear power plant, and that a nuclear power plant does not produce the greenhouse gases created when fossil fuels are used to make electricity. But much about uranium is less well known. We're working to change that.

The source ore of uranium is pitchblende. Pitchblende is mined in a number of countries around the world including Canada, Australia, Kazakhstan, Niger, Namibia, Russia, India, China, the United States and South Africa. Pitchblende is typically black in colour, yet it can also be yellow or green, depending on its chemical form. It is mined from open-pit mines, underground mines and in-situ operations,



where solutions circulated through ore-bearing formations dissolve uranium that is then pumped to the surface and recovered.

Uranium itself is a silver-grey metal that also finds use as a counterweight in airplanes.

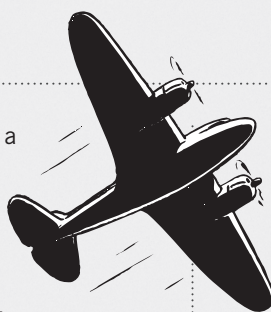
That's because it is one of the heaviest of all naturally occurring elements.

And although it is not as hard as steel – it is not hard enough to scratch glass, for instance – it can be used to strengthen steel.



It can also be used to colour glass. Uranium oxide added to glass produces a yellow to greenish hue. In fact, people have been using uranium to colour glass for almost

2,000 years. We know this



because some of this glass was discovered near Naples, Italy, and dated to about 79 A.D.

Finally, although we know uranium best as a great source of energy, we seldom hear uranium's power put into perspective. Well, consider this: one 7-gram pellet of uranium can generate as much energy as 3.5 barrels of oil or 800 kilograms of coal!

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