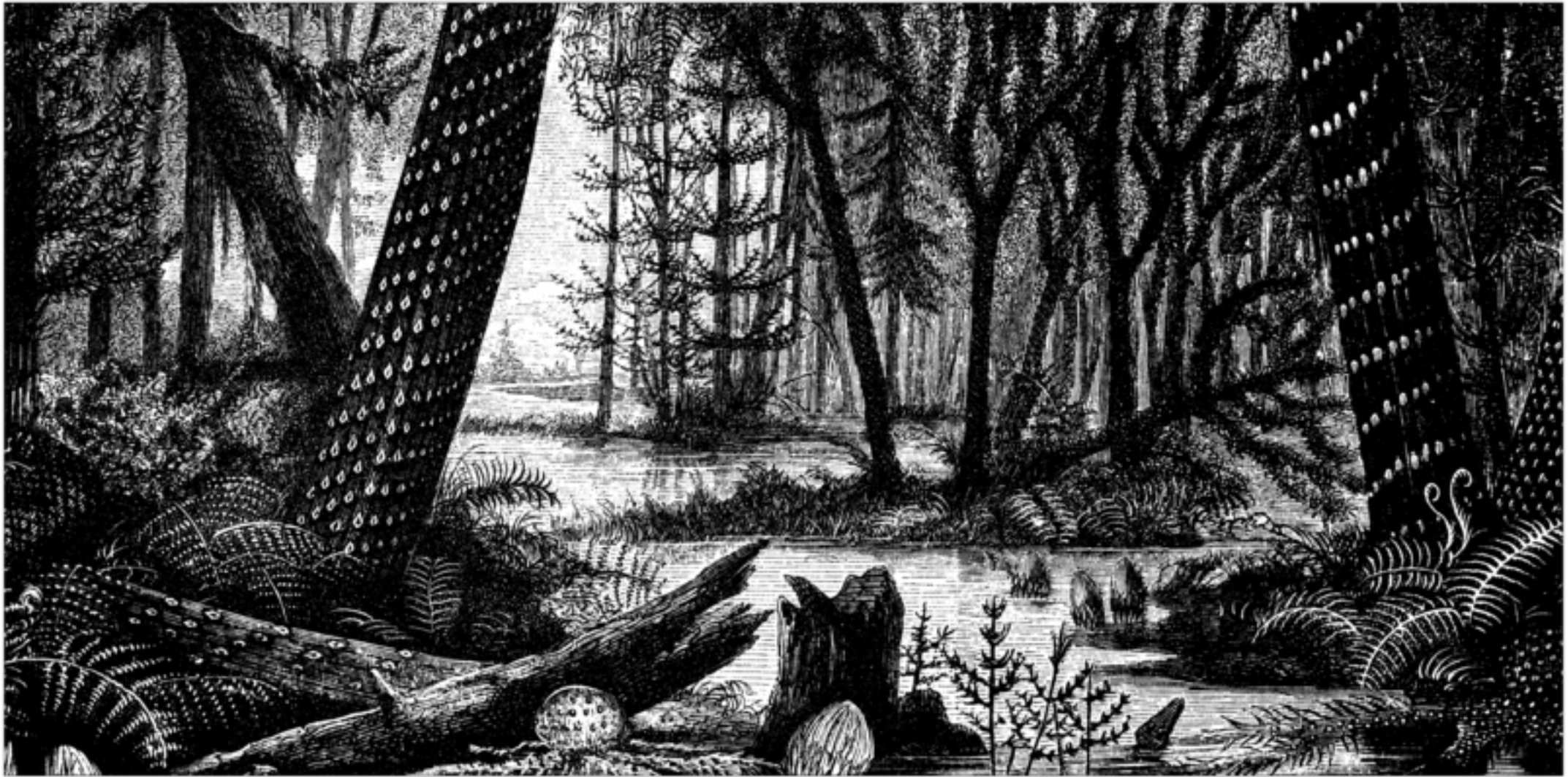




How Coal Formed

Study*ladder*



Millions of years ago, before the dinosaur age, the Earth had a different climate than today. It was hot and steamy and contained swamplands teeming with giant plants. Earth events, such as volcanic eruptions, caused these swamplands to be covered by layers of sediment. The rotting vegetation became trapped and compacted under the heavy weight of many layers of material. The ancient vegetation deteriorated and slowly became petrified (turned into rock like material), into the substance we know as coal.

Coal

Coal is the remains of ancient plants that were covered in sediments and compacted over millions of years.

Coal formed on the Earth about 300 million years ago when the environment was wet and swampy. The vegetation sank into the swamps, building up over time to form peat. When the peat was covered in layers of sediments from volcanic activity, the peat was compressed, eventually causing the peat to petrify as coal.



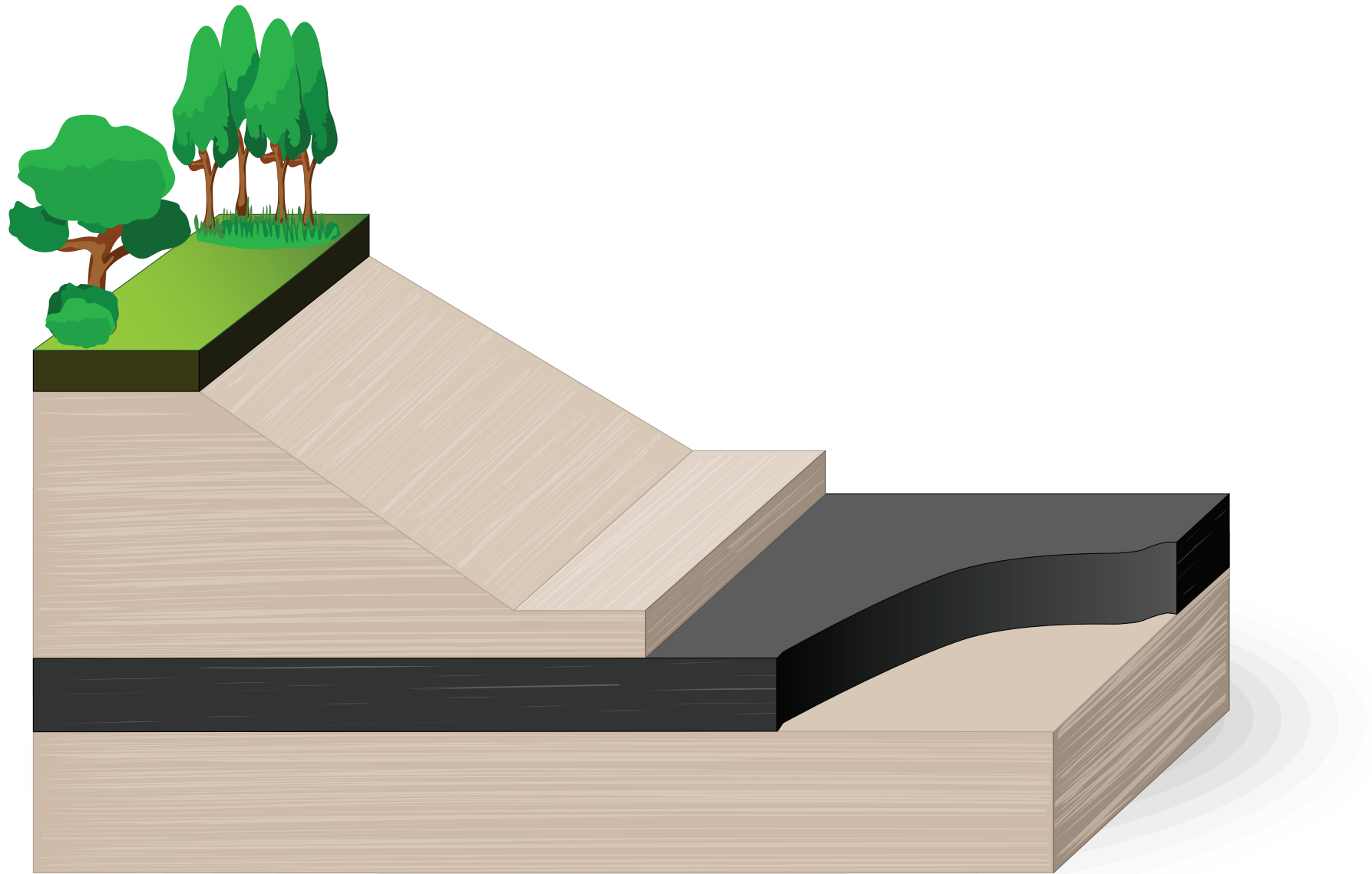
Coal takes millions of years to form.



Peat can take thousands of years to form. It can still be found in boggy parts of the world. When peat is dried out it can be used to fuel fires.



How do we get coal out of the ground?



Coal seam