

Chapter 05

Coal and Petroleum

Coal:

- Coal is one of the solid fossil fuel. It is as hard as stone and black in colour.
- Coal is obtained from earth through mining.
- During natural calamities, forests get buried under the soil. These buried plants due to high pressures and high temperatures are compressed and slowly converted into coal.
- This slow process of conversion of dead vegetation into coal is called carbonization.
- The major component of air is carbon. When we burnt in air, this carbon is oxidized and produces mainly Carbon dioxide.

Uses of Coal:

- In earlier days coal is used to cook food.
- In railway engines, it is burnt to generate steam, which in turn is used to run engines.
- It is used in the thermal power plants to generate electricity.
- Coal is used as fuel in many industries.
- The coal is processed in industry to generate the other products like coke, coal gas, coal tar etc.