

THINKING CRITICALLY

● In Short Supply?

1. Given what you know about the creation of mineral deposits and about the mining of those deposits, which do you think makes up a larger part of the earth's crust: metals or nonmetals?
2. Natural gas is lighter than air. Why, then, doesn't all of the natural gas in the earth rise and escape into the earth's atmosphere?
3. In the future, people might mine present-day landfills to recover resources. What types of minerals, human-made materials, and fuels do you think they will be able to mine? What kinds of problems might they have?
4. Offshore drilling for oil can cause water pollution from oil spills. The oil spills kill off many organisms in the rich and varied ecosystems along the shores. Given the increasing shortages of oil, do you think offshore drilling is worthwhile? Why or why not?
5. Given where you live, which alternative source or sources of energy do you think would be best for your area? Why?