

Name: Klasse:

The Appalachians – “Steel Kitchen” and “Cow Barn” of the USA – Solution



⇒ Fill in the blanks in the text about the Appalachians!

The Appalachians are amongst the *oldest* mountain ranges on Earth. They are named after the Native American tribe “Apalachee”. Over 400 million years ago the first *folds* formed. During the Earth’s history the fold mountains rose and were carried away over and over again. Because of its old age and the constant erosion the mountain range is now only up to *2000* meters high. Stretching over about 2400 km, the Appalachians are still considered a relatively *low mountain range*. As a result of the long erosion time, the *coal reserves* came close to the surface of the mountain peaks. To get to the reserves, the caps of the mountains are *blasted off*. This process is called *Mountaintop Removal Mining* and causes great *environmental damage*.

The *coal* of the Appalachians was the foundation for the industrialization of the U.S. since the mid-19th Century. It is partly used for energy production and for *steelmaking* in the furnaces of Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh became the “Steel Kitchen” of the U.S. But since then most of the furnaces have been shut down and the city became a symbol of the *Rust Belt*. Many people moved away. Today new branches of industry like *biomedical engineering and the medical industry* have settled here. The Appalachians are also an important agricultural region. The North is part of the *Dairy Belt*. The origin of this agricultural zone is not only a result of natural conditions, but also of the close proximity to the *big cities in the east of the USA*.