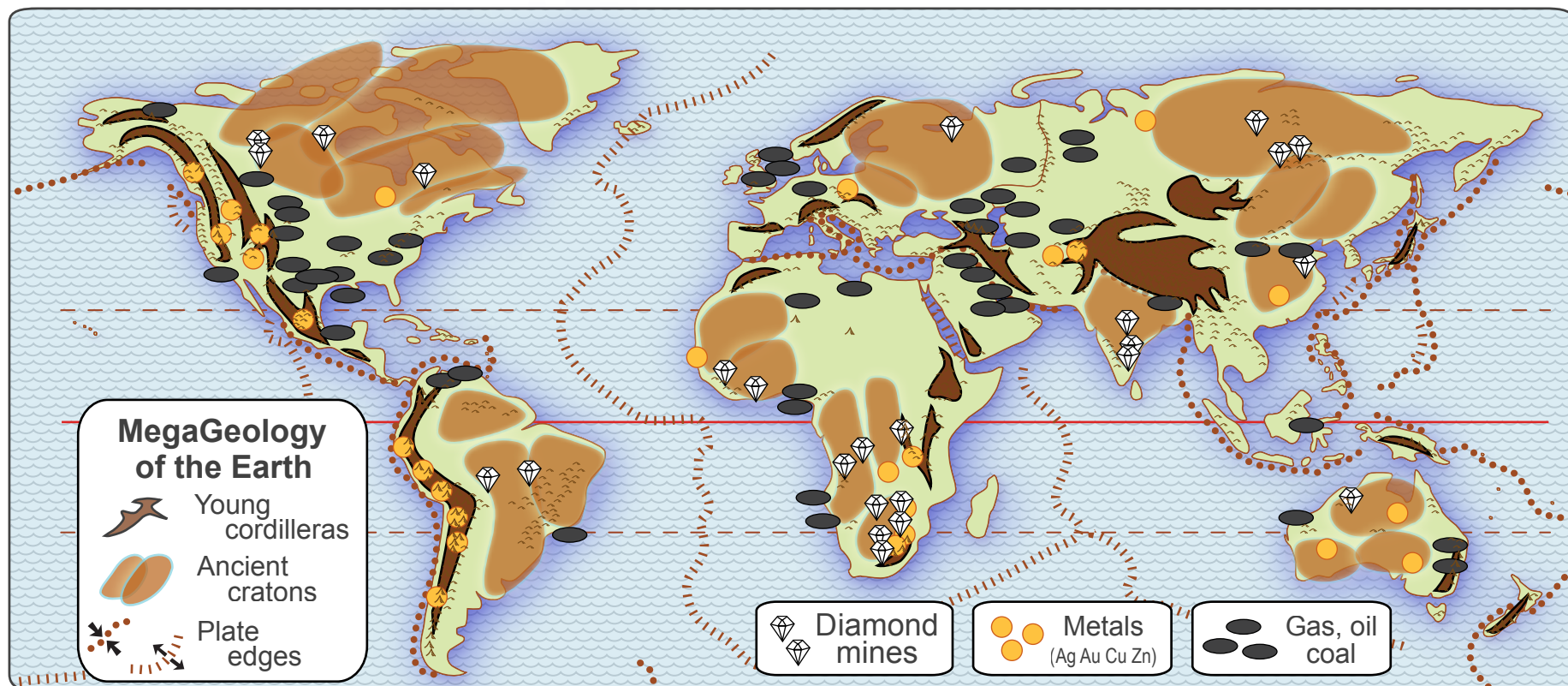


# Basic Economic Geology of the World



A **craton** is a large area of ancient rock. Cratons are also called **shields**. They form the "core areas" of continents.

Cratons usually are a complex mix of igneous rocks (mostly granite or gabbro) and metamorphic rocks (gneiss, schist, etc).

A **cordillera** is an area of recent (even ongoing) mountain-building. Cordilleras have many earthquakes and active volcanoes.

Areas around ancient cratons and young cordilleras are called **platforms**. They consist mainly of sedimentary rocks.

These rocks are formed by deposition of material eroded from high cordilleras and formerly high mountains of cratons.

Many important mineral resources are associated with specific kinds of rocks. By studying the map above (and/or turning individual "layers" of information on and off in the clickable map), gather data to answer these questions:

1. Diamonds are most likely to be found in (circle one): cratons cordilleras sedimentary platforms
2. Fossil fuels (coal, gas, oil) are most likely to be found in (circle one): cratons cordilleras sedimentary platforms
3. Metals (gold, silver, copper, zinc, etc., but not iron or aluminum) are most likely to be found in \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Discussion question: which areas of the world are likely to make a living by selling minerals to people in other places?