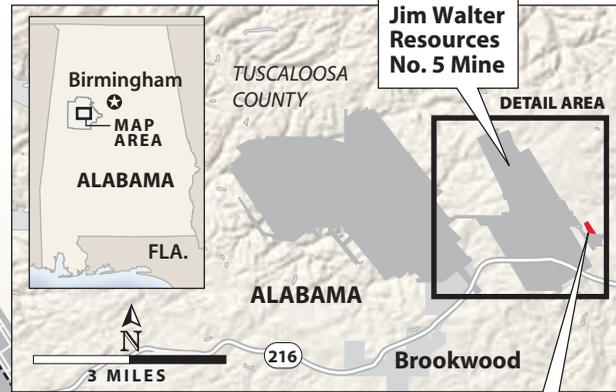
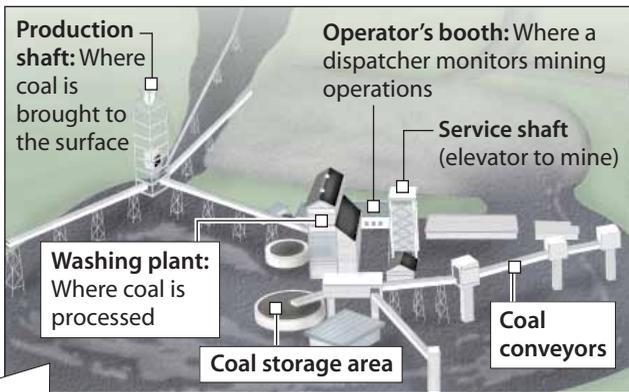


# Working beneath the earth's surface

At 2,140 feet, the Jim Walter Resources No. 5 Mine in Brookwood, Ala., is the deepest coal mine in North America. The mine's vast network of tunnels covers 12 square miles—about half the size of Manhattan Island. It has 374 workers and produces about 2 million tons of coal each year.

## ABOVE-GROUND

A small cluster of buildings surrounds the mine entrance, or service shaft. Once coal is mined underground, it is washed and stored above before distribution.



## UNDERGROUND

**Tunnels:** To advance the mining area, workers remove long strips of coal, creating a grid of tunnels that function as passageways for coal and personnel.

**459 switch:** A tunnel miners use to transfer from two main transportation routes.

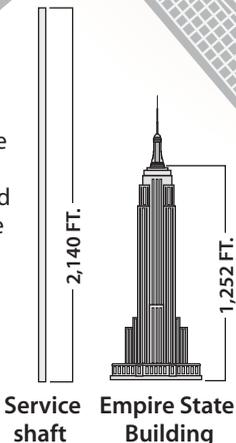
**Panels:** In a technique called longwall mining, workers excavate large panels of coal. Once all the coal has been removed, overhead debris fills the area and miners seal it off with concrete.

**4 Section:** A remote area where two explosions on Sept. 23, 2001, killed 13 miners.

Distance to site of explosion: 3 miles

### Service shaft

An elevator miners call the cage carries workers to and from the mine at 12 feet per second. The trip takes about three minutes.



**Pillars:** Miners leave areas of coal between the tunnels to prevent the roof from collapsing. Pillar size varies throughout the mine, but most tend to be more than 80 feet on each side.

**Manbuses:** Short, wide motorized vehicles transport workers and supplies throughout the mine.

