

King Copper

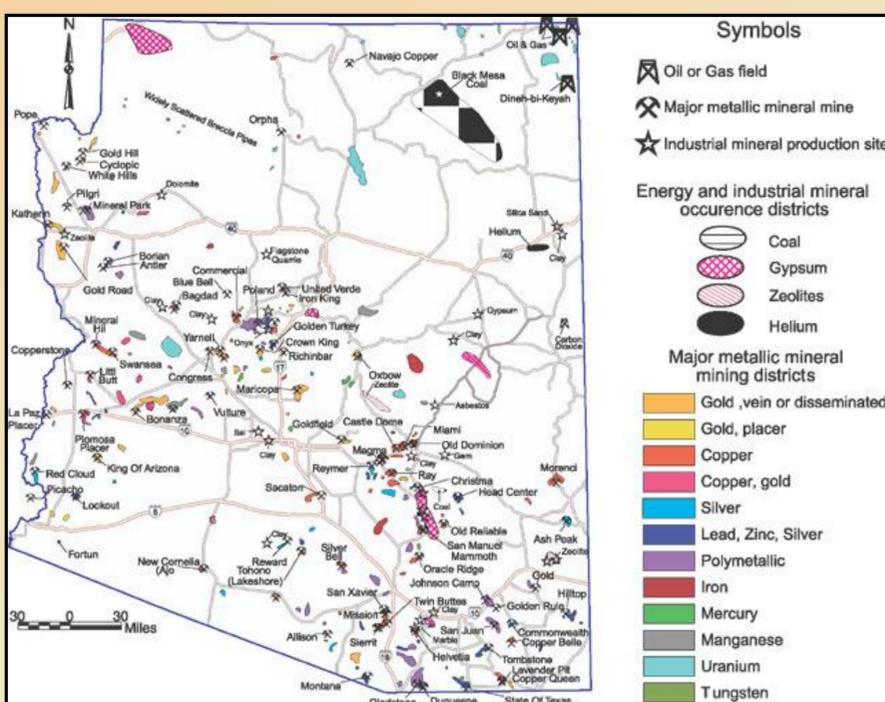
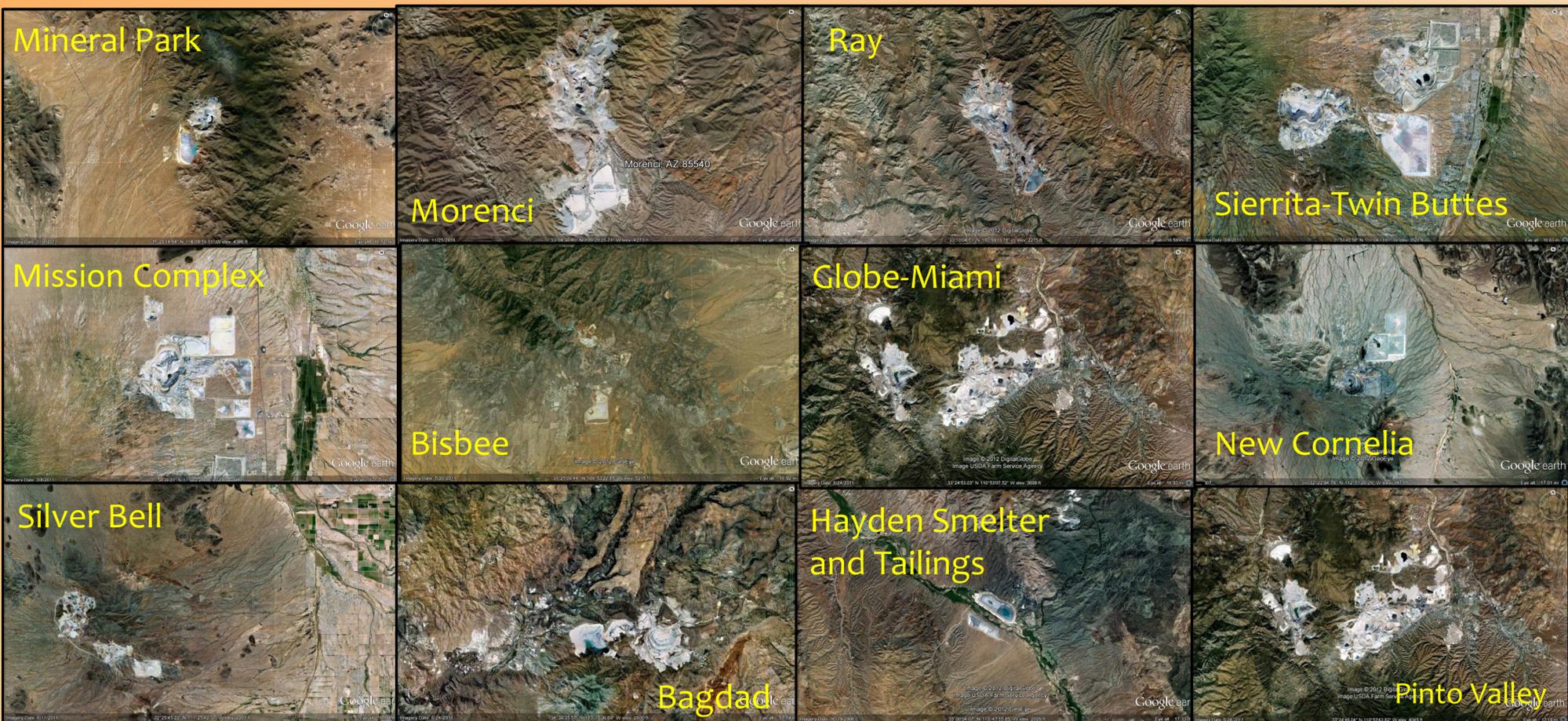
Brittney Garcia, Project Dragonfly, Earth Camp for Educators 2011



The Power of Perspective

Artist's view of a U.S. Landsat satellite. Credits: NASA.

Arizona leads the nation in copper production. With demand strong around the world, new copper mines are currently being explored and/or developed in the state. Depending on your perspective, you may see mining as an economic engine, environmental calamity, a technological and geological wonder, or all of these things and more.



Arizona Mine Map, The Arizona Geological Survey

Open pit copper mines are a significant feature of Arizona's social and physical landscape.

These images of twelve large copper mining facilities in Arizona capture views from about **17 miles above the Earth's surface**. Analysis of satellite imagery reveals that open pit mines and the land immediately adjacent to them cover about 290 square miles in the state. This is larger than the area of Tucson plus the surrounding suburban areas (195 square miles).