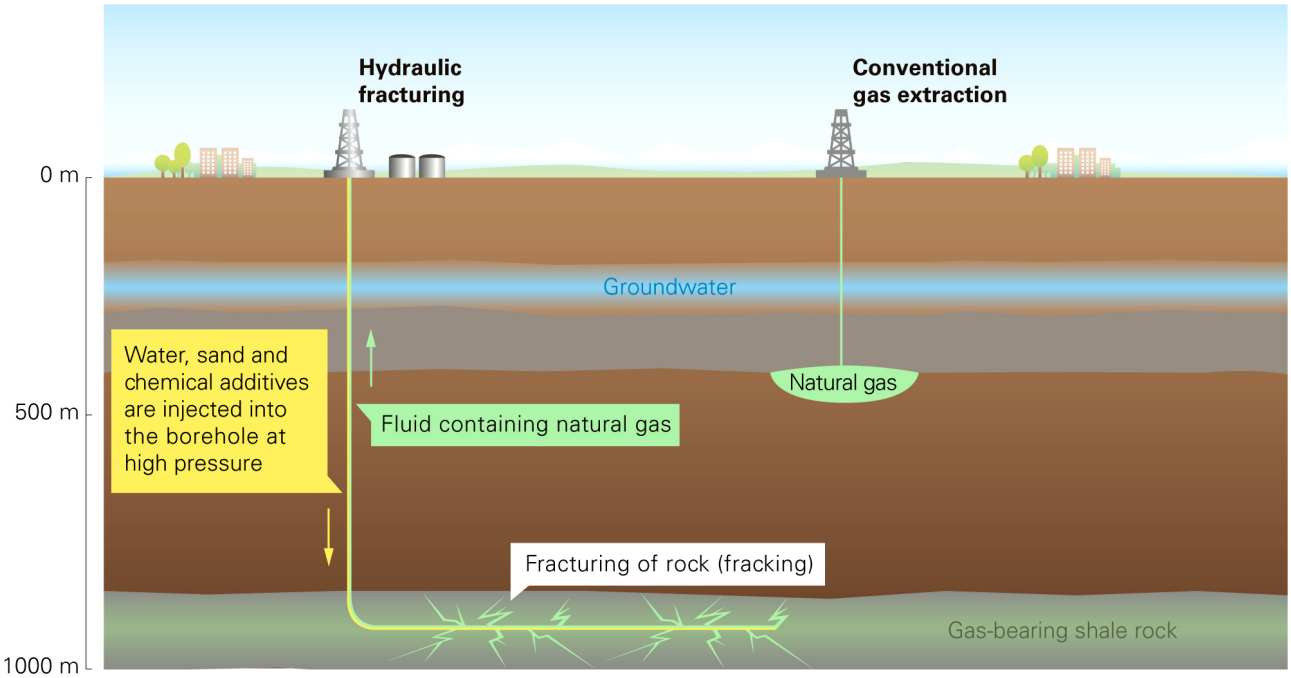
Shale gas

What is shale gas and why is it important?

Shale gas is natural gas found in very fine-grained sedimentary rock. Sedimentary rocks are rocks formed by the accumulation of sediments at the Earth's surface and within bodies of water. Common sedimentary rocks include sandstone, limestone, and shale.
The gas is tightly locked in very small spaces within the reservoir rock requiring advanced technologies to drill and stimulate (fracture) the gas-bearing zones. Over the past decade, the combination of horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing has allowed access to large volumes of shale gas that were previously uneconomical to produce. The creation of fractures within the reservoir is critical in allowing the natural gas to flow to the well. Once stimulated, the shale gas reservoirs are produced in the same way as conventional gas wells. The application of these technologies has led to a rapid rise in shale gas production, especially in the United States.

1 Match these words with their synonyms.

a. Shale	☐	**1.** Schistous clay
b. Sandstone	☐	**2.** Source
c. Limestone	☐	**3.** To excavate
d. Tightly	☐	**4.** Pit
e. Locked	☐	**5.** Firmly
f. Reservoir	☐	**6.** Calcareous rock
g. To drill	☐	**7.** Increase
h. Allowed	☐	**8.** Arenaceous rock
i. Well	☐	**9.** Fixed
j. Rise	☐	**10.** Permitted



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