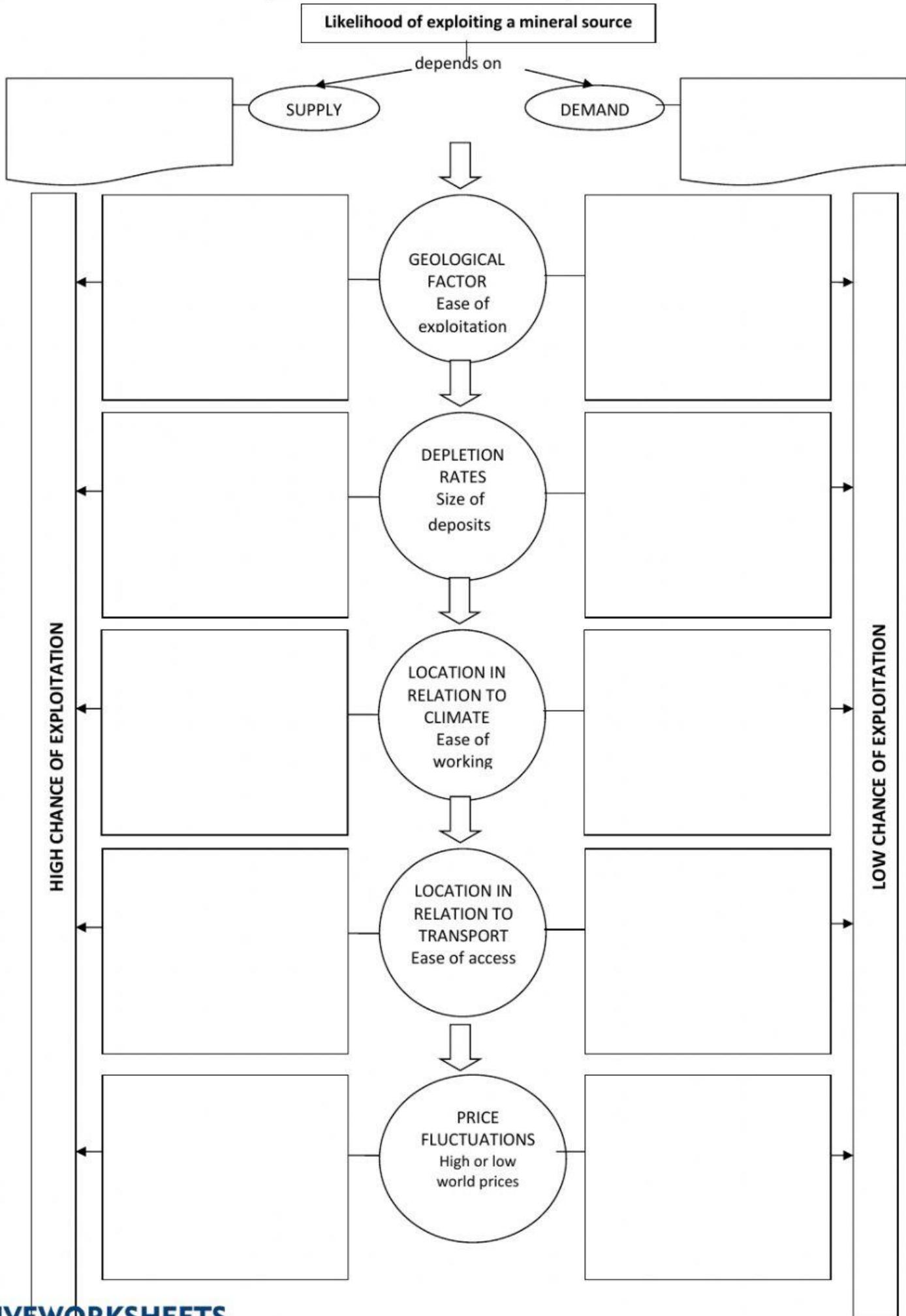


How supply and demand affects mining



- Only small reserves are left. The best deposits have been used, leaving those that are more difficult and expensive to mine.

- Difficult geology e.g. much folding and faulting
- Impossible to use machines

- Large deposits and plentiful reserves remain. Many good-quality deposits, easy to mine, are still present.

Amount of the resource that is known to exist; these reserves can be exploited when needed

Amount of the resource that people need to use.

- High prices encourage more production. Even small mines in remote areas can be profitable.

- In remote places far away from people and economic activities, new roads and railways will need to be built, adding to the cost of exploitation.

- Extreme climates, like those in hot deserts or cold polar lands, which make mining difficult and expensive.

- Simple geology e.g. thick layers in unbroken horizontal beds, at or near the surface.
- Easy to use machines

- Climate is easy to work in, with no extremes of weather, such as great heat, intense cold and heavy rain.

- Low prices reduce output. Production is confined to large, well-located mines where costs of production are low.

- Close to places where many people live and industries using minerals are already located, there is likely to be a dense network of existing roads and railways.