

L

- labíl** *adj* unstable | labile | friable
- labio** *nm* lip, edge | *l. de falla* fault limb
- labor** *nf* miner working or work | working place or face | a measure of area (177.14 acres) | *l. a cielo* overhand working | *l. a cielo abierto* open pit working | *l. a través* cross cut | *l. abandonada* abandoned working | *l. alta* [Col] placer working above water level | *l. auxiliar* development work | *l. baja* [Col] placer working below water level | *l. de bancos* underhand stoping | *l. de beneficio* mill, milling | *l. de cantera* stone quarry, open pit work | *l. de hacienda* all workings in a mine not leased | *l. de realce* overhand stoping | *l. de reconocimiento* exploratory workings | *l. de testers* overhand stoping | *l. en rebajo* underhand stoping | *l. por lajas* slabbing, slashing | *l. preparativas* development work
- laboreo** *nm* mining, exploitation, working | art of mining | *l. a cielo abierto* open pit mining | *l. de crestones* surface workings | *l. de grada* stoping | *l. de subniveles* sublevel stoping | *l. en avance* advancing system | *l. en retirada* retreating system | *l. minero* mining, exploitation | *l. por cuadras* panel working | *l. por socavón* adit cut mining
- labra** *nf* working, cutting, carving, or dressing of stone
- labrado,-da** *adj* worked, wrought, cut, carved | *nm* cutting, carving
- labrar** *vtr* to work a mine | to work metals | to dress, cut or carve stone | *l. en facetas* to facet
- lacolito** *nm* laccolith
- lacunario,-ria** *adj* lacustrine
- lacustre** *adj* lacustrine, lake
- ladera** *nf* declivity, slope, side, hillside | highly inclined flanks of a saddle or anticline | flank
- ladiniano,-na** *adj* Ladinian
- ladiniense** *adj* Ladinian
- lago** *nm* lake | *l. alcalino* alkaline lake | *l. de agua dulce* fresh water lake | *l. de agua salada* salt lake | *l. de circo* tarn | *l. de cráter* crater lake | *l. de erosión* erosion lake | *l. de erosión glaciar* | *l. de fractura* tectonic lake | *l. de glaciar* glacier lake | *l. en herradura* oxbow lake | *l. endicado* barrier lake | *l. salado* salt lake, saline lake | *l. semilunar* oxbow lake
- láguena** *nf* decomposition of argillaceous schist by weathering
- laguna** *nf* lagoon | small lake | reservoir used to store water to supply water-powered stamp mills | *l. costera* coastal lagoon | *l. de decantación* tailings pond
- lagunato** *nm* [Cu] pool, pond
- lagunero** *nm* person in charge of the upkeep of *lagunas*
- lagunoso,-sa** *adj* full of lagoons
- laja** *nf* thin, flat stone | bed, layer or sheet | stone slab | *l. chavera* [Cartagena, Sp] highly decomposed slate
- lajeado,-da** *adj* [Mex, Ur] laminated
- lajilla** *nf* [Vz] shale
- lajoso,-sa** *adj* [Ur] laminated
- lama** *nf* slime, mud, silt | tailings | ore in the form of dust or fine powder within veins | [Tipuani, Bol] gravel beds forming false bedrock to gold placers
- lamelar** *adj* laminated
- lameliforme** *adj* lamelliform
- lámina** *nf* lamella (*pl* lamellae) | slab | thin plate or sheet | scale | *l. de piritita* scale | *l. de pizarra* slab of slate, slate
- laminación** *nf* lamination
- laminado,-da** *adj* laminated | tabular
- laminilla** *nf* lamella (*pl* lamellae) | thin sheet | flake
- lamoso,-da** *adj* slimey | [Aguascalientes, Méx] copper ores in a steatite matrix
- lamprófito** *nm* lamprophyre
- lancanstriano,-na** *adj* Lancastrian
- lancastriense** *nm* Lancastrian
- lancha** *nf* thin, flat stone | stone slab
- lanchar** *nm* quarry yielding *lanchas*
- landeniano,-na** *adj* Landenian
- landeniense** *nm* Landenian
- lantano** *nm* lanthanum
- lapa** *nf* [Pe] footwall
- lapiez** *nm* karren
- lapili** *nf* lapilli | *l. de acreción* accretion lapilli
- lapislázuli** *nf* lapis lazuli
- lápiz** *nm* graphite, black lead, plumbargo | black chalk | *l. encarnado* or *rojo* red chalk or ochre
- lapizar** *nm* graphite mine
- laque** *nm* druse
- lasca** *nf* small, thin fragment of stone | chip, spall
- lascar** *vtr* to spall
- lastra** *nf* flat stone, stone slab, flagstone | [Serrata de Lorca, Sp] bed of native sulphur, of which there are several: *l. de arriba* the upper

- bed, *l. de abajo* or *de fuego* middle bed, and *l. de agua* the lowermost which was not worked
- lastre** *nm* weathered stone of poor quality found at the surface of quarries
- lastrón** *nm* large flagstone
- laterítico,-ca** *adj* lateritic
- laterización** *nf* laterization
- latilla** *nf* lath
- latitud** *nf* latitude | breadth, width | total extent of a region, belt, province, district, etc | *a 30° latitud sur* 30° south
- lattorfiano,-na** *adj* Lattorfian
- lattorfiense** *adj* Lattorfian
- lauegrama** *nm* lauegram
- laurencio** *nm* lawrencium
- lava** *nf* lava | washing of ore | *l. cordada* pillow lava | *l. de bloque* block lava | *l. en alhomada* pillow lava | *l. escoriácea* aa lava | *l. pahoehoe* pahoehoe
- lavada** *nf* washing of placers, ore, or amalgam
- lavadero** *nm* site for washing placers, ore, or amalgam | [Ch, Pe] placer deposit | act of washing placers, ore, or amalgam
- lavado** *nm* washing | *l. de surcos* | *l. superficial*
- lavador** *nm* gold pan | washer
- lavadora** *nf* gold pan | *l. de carbón* coal washer
- lavadura** *nf* washing of placers or ore | *nfpl* washings
- lavaje** *nm* washing of placers or ore
- lavar** *vt* to wash placers or ore
- lazada** *nf* bow, knot | *en lazada* loop
- lazo** *nm* bow, knot | *en forma de l.* loop
- lazurita** *nf* lapis lazuli, lazurite
- lechada** *nf* mixture of lime and gypsum or of lime and sand | slurry, paste
- leche de luna** *nm* calcareous clay
- leche de tierra** *nm* magnesia
- leche fósil de luna** *nm* mineral agaric
- lechecilla** *nf* [Tasco, Méx] a *var* of limestone
- lechedor** *nm* [Pe] huantajaita | [Atacama, Ch] oxidized ore or gossan rich in silver chlorides
- lecho** *nm* river bed | thin layer, bed or stratum | *l. de cantera* bed of stone | *l. de creciente* flood plain | *l. de río* stream bed | *l. de roca* bedrock | *l. mayor* flood plain
- lediano,-na** *adj* Ledian
- lediense** *adj* Ledian
- légamo** *nm* slime, mud, ooze | loam
- legamoso,-sa** *adj* slimy, oozy, loamy
- legítima** *nf* [Real del Monte, Méx] vein having an east-west trend
- legua** *nf* league, a measure of distance of 5000 footsteps (about 5572 meters) (a day's ride on horseback is about six leagues)
- leguaje** *nm* an advance for travel expenses that should have but was rarely paid to *mitayos* by mine owners when they left their communities for the mines
- lenar** *nm* karren, lapiaz
- lengua del glaciar** *nf* glacial tongue
- lengüebuey** *nm* [Antioquia, Col] a trachyte so named because its texture resembles that of an ox's tongue
- lente** *nm* lense | magnifying glass | lenticular mass of rock | *l. ocular* eyepiece
- lenteja** *nf* lenticular mass of rock, ore or mineral
- lentejón** *nm* lense (of sedimentary rock)
- leñoso,-sa** *adj* woody, ligneous
- lepidoblástico,-ca** *adj* lepidoblastic
- leucito** *nm* leucite
- leucocrático,-ca** *adj* leucocratic
- leucopirita** *nf* leucopyrite
- leucozafiro** *nm* leucosapphire
- levantada** *nf* orogeny
- levantamiento** *nm* elevation | uplift | survey | surveying | creep (soil) | *l. aerofotogramétrico* aerial survey | *l. sísmico* seismic survey
- levantar** *vt* to survey | to uplift, elevate
- levée** *nf* levee | *l. natural* natural levee
- levigación** *nf* levigation
- levógiro,-ra** *adj* sinistral
- ley** *nf* law | grade of ore | legal standard of quality or fineness | statistical distribution function | *l. beta* beta distribution | *l. binomial* binomial distribution | *l. binomial negativa* negative binomial distribution | *l. de Boyle* Boyle's law | *l. de Charles* Charles's law | *l. de F* F distribution | *l. de Henry* Henry's law | *l. de minas* mining law | *l. de metal* grade | *l. de Pareto* Pareto distribution | *l. de Poisson* Poisson distribution | *l. de student* student t-distribution | *l. de Weibull* Weibull distribution | *l. discreta* uniform distribution | *l. exponencial* exponential distribution | *l. gamma* gamma distribution | *l. geométrica* geometric distribution | *l. hipergeométrica* hypergeometric distribution | *l. ji cuadrado* chi-squared distribution | *l. lognormal* lognormal distribution | *l. media* average grade | *l. mineral* mining law | *l. multinomial* multinomial distribution | *l. normal* normal distribution | *l. rectangular* Rectangular distribution | *l. superior* a grade greater than | *l. t* t-distribution | *l.*

- unifomre* uniform distribution | *con ley de* of a grade of | *de baja (alta) ley* of low (high) grade
- leyenda** *nf* legend (to a map)
- lherzolita** *nf* lherzolite
- liás** *nm* Lias
- liásico,-ca** *adj* Liassic, Lias | *nm* Liassic
- libra** *nf* pound, a measure of weight | *l. esterlina* pound sterling
- libre** *adj* free
- libreta** *nf* notebook | *l. de campo* field book
- licuación** *nf* liquification
- licuefacción** *nf* liquification
- liquifacer** *vt* to liquify
- lidita** *nf* lydite, touchstone
- lienza** *nf* measuring tape
- lievrita** *nf* ilvaite
- liga** *nf* alloy | alloy of gold and silver used in coinage | [Méx] smelting ore, or ore used as a flux in smelting | [Potosí, Bol] galena | *l. de metal* alloy
- ligación** *nf* bond
- ligar** *vt* to alloy (metals)
- ligero,-ra** *adj* light
- lignítico,-ca** *adj* lignitic
- lignito** *nm* lignite or brown coal | *l. duro* | *l. leñoso* lignite proper | *l. xiloide* xyloid lignite
- limadura** *nf* [Méx] refined silver or silver amalgam produced by the *patio* process of amalgamation
- limbo** *nm* limb (of a fold)
- límite** *nm* boundary | limit | *l. conservador de placas* transform plate boundary | *l. de confianza* confidence limit | *l. de contracción* shrinkage limit | *l. de nieve* snow line | *l. de placa* plate boundary | *l. de placas convergentes* converging plate boundary | *l. de placas divergentes* diverging plate boundaries
- límitrofe** *adj* bordering
- limnico,-ca** *adj* lacustrine, limnic
- limnología** *nf* limnology
- limo** *nm* silt, mud | *l. de derrubios* boulder clay | *l. de faldeo*
- limolito** *nm* siltstone
- limonita** *nf* limonite
- limonítico,-ca** *adj* limonitic
- limonitizado,-da** *adj* limonitic
- limoso,-sa** *adj* muddy, silty
- limpia** *nf* low-grade ore or waste
- limpiar** *vt* to clean up, as for a mill, dredge, etc
- limpio** *nm* cobbed or sorted ore
- linde** *nm* boundary, limit
- lindero** *nm* boundary, especially of a mining claim
- línea** *nf* line | twelfth part of a *pulgada* or inch | *l. aclínica* aclinic line, magnetic equator | *l. de costa* coastline, strandline | *l. de crecimiento* growth line | *l. de charnela* hinge line | *l. de fractura* fracture line | *l. de litoral* shoreline | *l. de nieves perpetuas* snow line | *l. de tierra* ground line | *l. geodésica* geodesic line | *l. isodinámica* isodynamic line | *l. isogónica* isogonic line | *l. transversal* traverse
- lineación** *nf* lineation
- lineamiento** *nm* lineament
- lingote** *nm* ingot | *l. de hierro* pig iron | *l. de plomo* pig of lead
- liparita** *nf* rhyolite
- lipis** *nm* copper sulfate
- lipta** *nf* [Bol] grey silver ores which accompany tin ore
- liquado** *nm* liquid | *l. newtoniano* Newtonian liquid
- iso,-sa** *adj* even | *nm* an extensive flat face of a rock | slickenside | [Col] fault
- lista** *nf* stripe, band
- listado,-da** *adj* striped | in thin layers, laminated
- listones** *nmpl* riffles
- litarge** *nm* litharge | *l. nativo* lead ocher
- litargirio** *nm* litharge
- litificación** *nf* lithification
- lítico,-ca** *adj* lithic
- litio** *nm* lithium
- litoclasa** *nf* lithoclase
- litoestratigráfico,-ca** *adj* lithostratigraphic
- litofacies** *nfpl* lithofacies
- litófilo,-la** *adj* lithophile
- litofisuras** *nfpl* lithophysae
- litogénesis** *nf* lithogenesis
- litología** *nf* lithology
- litológico,-ca** *adj* lithological
- litomargo** *nm* lithomarge, kaolin
- litoral** *adj* coastal, littoral | *nm* shore | *l. entre mareas* foreshore | *l. submarino* offshore
- litosfera** *nm* lithosphere
- litosiderita** *nf* lithosiderite
- litostático,-ca** *adj* lithostatic
- litraje** *nm* [Arg] volume in liters
- litro** *nm* liter
- lixivación** *nf* leaching, lixivation | *l. amoniaca* ammonia leaching
- lizote** *nm* [Sinaloa, Méx] blue speckled quartz rich in silver
- local** *nm* site | *l. del ingenio* mill site

localidad *nf* locality | *l. tipo* type locality

lodazal *nm* marsh, bog

lodo *nm* mud, ooze, sludge | *l. calcáreo*

calcareous ooze | *l. de síliceo* siliceous ooze | *l. de diatomeas* diatomaceous ooze | *l. de radiolarios* radiolarian ooze | *l. mineral* slime | *l. rojo* red mud

lodolita *nf* mudstone

lodoso,-sa *adj* muddy

loes or **loess** *nm* loess

logarítmico,-ca *adj* logarithmic

logaritmo *nm* logarithm

loma *nf* ridge, rise, hill, hillock | *l. de acumulación* accretionary ridge

lomada *nf* [Arg] hill, ridge

lomerío *nm* [Méx] a range of hills

lomo *nm* ridge | *l. eólico* windrow ridge

loncha *nf* flagstone

longana *nf* [Guanajuato, Méx] cylinders of clay with embedded rich ore, or cylindrical pieces of ore concealed in the anus as a means of stealing ore

longitud *nf* longitude | length | departure, ie easting or westing

lopolito *nm* lopolith

losa *nf* flat stone, stone slab, flagstone |

[Coquimbo, Ch] shell-bearing conglomerate

losero *nm* quarry for *losa* or flagstone |

[Guanajuato, Méx] sandstone quarry

lotaringiano,-na *adj* Lotharingian

lotaringiense *nm* Lotharingian

loza *nf* [Pe] bedrock to a placer

ludiano,-na *adj* Ludian

ludiense *adj* Ludian

ludloviano,-na *adj* Ludlovian

ludloviense *adj* Ludlovian

lumbre *nm* flint | firestone

lumbrera *nf* shaft

luminescente *adj* luminescent

luminiscencia *nf* luminescence | *l. catódica* cathodoluminescence

luminoso,-sa *adj* luminous

lupa *nf* magnifying glass, lens | hand lens

lurte *nm* landslide

lusitaniano,-na *adj* Lusitanian

lusitaniense *adj* Lusitanian

lustre or **lustro** *nm* luster

lustroso,-sa *adj* shiny, glossy, lustrous

luteciano,-na *adj* Lutetian

luteciense *adj* Lutetian

lutecio *nm* lutetium

lutita *nf* shale | *l. petrolífera* oil shale

lutífico,-ca *adj* shaly

luz *nf* light | *l. ambiente* available light | *l.*

natural natural or ordinary light | *l. polarizada* polarized light