

Discover: How has coal mining shaped our local area?

Sticky Knowledge

Mining

- A coal mine is a place where people dig deep underground to take out coal.
- Coal is one of the main sources of energy used around the world.
- Coal is a rock that can be burned to make electricity and heat.
- Coal is a fossil fuel, which makes it a non-renewable source of energy.
- In Victorian times, children as young as five worked in coal mines.
- In 1842, a law was passed to stop women and children under 10 from working in mines.
- In 1712, Thomas Newcomen invented a steam engine, which made it easier for miners to dig underground.
- In 1815, Sir Humphry Davy invented a safety lamp that helped miners see and made mines safer.
- In the 1980s, miners went on strike to protest against plans to close many mines in Britain.
- By the end of the 20th century, many mines had closed.
- The last deep coal mine in Britain closed in 2015.

Important ideas

Community
Economy
Industry
Labour
Health
Heritage
Resistance
Migration
Identity
Inequality

Crucial Connections

[Coal mining - Kids | Britannica Kids | Homework Help](#)

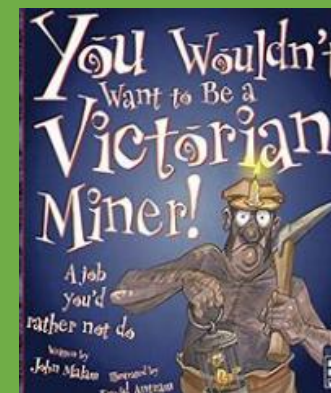
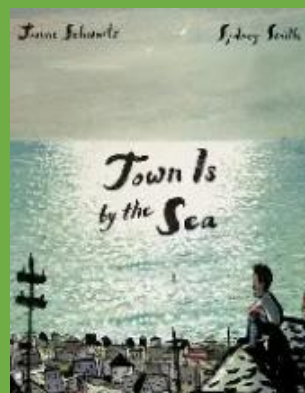
[National Geographic Education - Coal](#)

[Coal Mining and the Victorians – MyLearning](#)

[Downloadable Resources - National Coal Mining Museum](#)

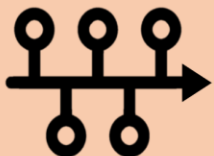
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Reading Recommendations



Discover: How has coal mining shaped our local area?

Concepts



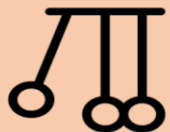
Constructing and Sequencing the Past



Interpretation



Significance



Cause and Effect



Change and Development



Historical Enquiry

Possibilities

Archaeologist, librarian, museum education officer, museum/gallery curator, archivist, heritage manager, academic researcher

Vocabulary

Coal – A black rock burned for fuel, especially important during the Industrial Revolution to power steam engines and factories.

Mine – An underground place where coal was dug out of the earth, often by hand in the past.

Miner – A person who worked underground to dig for coal; in history, many miners were men, but children and women sometimes worked in mines too.

Pit – A common historical term for a coal mine. **Colliery** – A coal mine and all the buildings and equipment around it; often the centre of a mining village.

Shaft – A deep vertical tunnel miners used to go down into the mine; shafts were dug by hand in early mines.

Pickaxe – A tool with a sharp, pointed end, used by miners to break rock and dig out coal before modern machinery.

Lamp – In the past, miners used oil lamps or "**Davy lamps**" to see in the dark tunnels; these also helped detect dangerous gases.

Cage – A lift used to carry miners up and down the mine shaft; early cages were operated by steam engines.

Seam – A layer of coal buried underground; miners followed the seam to dig out coal.

Ventilation – A way to move fresh air into the mine and remove harmful gases; in history, poor ventilation led to many accidents.

Canary – A small bird taken underground by miners; if it stopped singing or died, it warned of poisonous gas.

Child Labour – In the 1800s, many children worked in mines doing hard and dangerous jobs like opening trap doors or carrying coal.

Industrial Revolution – A time in history (late 1700s to 1800s) when coal mining increased to provide fuel for factories, trains, and ships.

Strike – When miners refused to work, often to protest unsafe conditions or low pay; strikes were common in coal mining history.