

Year 5: Local History Study - Mining

Victorian Era:

The industrial revolution popularised mining as coal was essential to power the steam engines and steamships.

In the 19th and 20th centuries, conditions in the coal mines were poor and often dangerous.

Many people, including lots of young children were injured or killed by explosions, roof falls, or being run over by carts.

Children played an important role in underground tasks, performing many of the jobs essential to mining.

The Oaks Disaster:

On 12th December 1866, a series of explosions ripped through the underground workings at Oaks Colliery in Hoyle Mill.

The full cause of the explosions was never identified, however workers had complained about a build up of gas a few weeks before.

Tragically, 361 (possibly 383) men and boys were killed.

The mineshafts were closed on 15th December to help extinguish the fires and weren't reopened until December 1870 (4 years later)

This still is the largest mining disaster in England.

Coalmining in Barnsley:

By the 1960s, UK coal mining became uncompetitive due to high costs and wages, as well as other sources of energy being discovered. People also became aware of the issues of global warming

The NUM had found out about government plans to close the coal mines and ordered its members to strike in 1984, which brought the country to a standstill and had serious financial implications for the miners on strike.



At its peak, Barnsley had 10 coalmines - Barnsley Main, Cortonwood, Darfield, Dearne Valley, Dodworth, Goldthorpe, Hickleton, Houghton Main, North Gawber and Royston.

When the mines closed down, the small villages had nothing else to provide other jobs and many of these areas are still struggling today.

KEY VOCABULARY



AIR QUALITY: how polluted the air is that we breath



ATMOSPHERE: the gases surrounding the Earth or another planet



BARNSELY MAIN: a large, deep mining site located in Barnsley



CLEAN AIR ACT: a law controlling emissions of smoke, grit, dust and fumes.



COALFIELD: an extensive area containing a number of underground coal seams.



COLLIERS' HELPER: a child employed to transport coal that had been mined.



DOOR KEEPER: a child whose job it was to open and close ventilation doors.



DRAMMER: a child who pulled carts of coal by a chain attached to their waste.



ECONOMY: how a country or place us ding in making goods and how much money it has.



EMISSIONS: the amount of gas discharged into the atmosphere.



ESSENTIAL: absolutely necessary



EXTRACTING: remove or take out.



GLOBAL WARMING: the long -term shifts in temperature and weather patterns



GOVERNMENT: the group of people with the authority to govern a country or state.



HABITAT: the natural home or environment of an animal, plant or other organism.



INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION: a time when good started to be made in large factories.



JOB OPPORTUNITIES: jobs available for people out of work.



NUCLEAR POWER: electricity generated by a nuclear reactor.



NUM: a trade union for coal miners in Great Britain.



PICKET LINE: a boundary established by workers on strike at the entrance to a place of work



POVERTY: not having enough money to meet basic needs



ROMANS: an empire of people from Rome in Italy.



SMALL SCALE MINING: mining by a small group with minimal or no mechanism



STANDSTILL: a situation where there is no movement or activity at all



STEAM: the vapour into which water is converted when heated.



STRIKE: a refusal to work organised in protest



SUBSIDENCE: the gradual sinking of an area of land



TOPOGRAPHY: the arrangement of the natural and artificial physical features of an area



VEGETATION: plants, trees and flowers



VENTILATION: the provision of fresh air to a room or building.