

Topic: Coal Mining– A Local Study

During this week the children will investigate the big question in school, “Why was coal mining so important to our local area?”

- Children will investigate old maps, census returns, mining banners, artefacts and use the internet to find out about the people who lived here in the past, how jobs have changed and how the land use has altered over time.
- By the end of the week, children will be able to recognise the significance of local pit villages and their contribution to coal mining in the past.
- They will be able to place key events in the local area on a time line as well as comment on the significance of the Mines Act for children.
- A key aspect of the week will focus on historical enquiry, centred around the working arrangements of the coal mining communities in the past both on the domestic and industrial side of life.
- Children will be encouraged to ask historical questions that probe the validity of sources of information and draw conclusions from this.

Big Questions

Reception: What is under the ground?

Year 1: Who went down the mines?

Year 2: What was a miner’s day like?

Year 3: What did miners and their families do in their spare time?

Year 4: How did mining help the North East develop?

Year 5: Was it safe to work in the pits?

Year 6: Was it right to shut the pits?

Key People

- Margaret Thatcher
- Sir Humphrey Davy
- Arthur Scargill
- George Stephenson
- Ian MacGregor

Key Vocabulary

Coal mining

Pit

Heritage

Disaster

Industrial revolution

Migrate

Pit village

Trapper

Digging

Railway

Cart

Mules

Pit ponies

The hewer

Underground

Pick-axe

Strike

Picket line

Whole School
Wc 21.10.19

