

Coal Mining and Processes

Lesson Overview

Students will learn coal mining processes, instruments, and positions/careers.

Objectives

- Students will be able to describe 2 kinds of mining.
- Students will be able to name at least 3 different positions in the coal mine.
- Students will be able to list 3 different tools used for mining.
- Students will be able to list at least 3 different hazards faced in the mine.

Standards

- 8.1. Historical Analysis and Skills Development
 - B. Historical Comprehension
 - C. Historical Interpretation
- 8.3 United States History
 - A. Contributions of Individuals and Groups
 - B. Documents, Artifacts, and Historical Places
 - C. Influences of Continuity and Change
 - D. Conflict and Cooperation Among Social Groups and Organizations

Activities/Assessments

[Story Time](#) – I have linked the story, Mr. Coal’s Story here, but there are also several children’s books available to borrow and/or purchase at Eckley Miners’ Village Museum.

[Being a Breaker Boy](#)

[Part of the Colliery](#) - Connect the Dots (pre-visit activity)

Useful Links/Resources:

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/immigration/tour/stop1.htm>

VOCABULARY

Deep Mining – tunneling into mountains or underneath the surface of the earth to extract coal

Strip Mining – a form of mining that involves scooping at earth from the surface to extract coal. This type of mining is most common used today in the anthracite region.

Coal Breaker – a large, wooden building where coal is brought up from the mines and separated from slate, rock, and other material.

Breaker Boys – boys between the ages of 8 and 12 who separated slate from coal. These workers sat on slanted platforms that faced coal chutes and typically worked 8-12 hour days.

Door Tender – a teenage boy responsible for opening and closing doors in the mines to allow cars, mules, and small locomotives to move throughout mines; they also controlled ventilation.

Mule Boy – a teenager aged fourteen or fifteen years old who was responsible for guiding the mules that pulled the coal cars through the mines.

Colliery – all the buildings and structures necessary to a mining operations.