

# Coal: Our Natural Resource

## Lesson Overview

Students will learn how coal is formed, the different types of coal, and how this coal was accessed. See presentation – [Coal: Our Natural Resource](#).

### Objectives

- Students will be able to list at least two differences between each kind of coal.
- Students will be able to discuss how coal is formed.
- Students will list 2 uses for coal in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and 2 uses for coal in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### 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

## Activities/Assessments

Story Time - there are several children's books available to borrow at Eckley Miners' Village Museum.

[The Coal Family Bingo](#) (and Study Buddy)

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

Useful Links/Resources:

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

## VOCABULARY

**Fossil fuel** – fuel that is formed in the earth from plant or animal remains.

**Coal** – a black, solid combustible (can explode) rock formed by the partial breaking down of vegetable matter without free access to air and under the influence of moisture and pressure.

**Peat** – the 1<sup>st</sup> step in the process of coal formation; brown, crumbly, lightweight, and spongy; usually formed out of dehydrated plant roots, leaves, and bark; originally used in many countries in Europe, such as Ireland, as a fuel source. Today, it is primarily used to improve soil on lawns, golf courses, greenhouses, etc.

**Lignite** – the lowest rank of coal which is formed from peat but has the lowest heat content.

**Anthracite** – hard coal; has high carbon content; burns cleaner and longer than bituminous coal because it has fewer impurities; looks metallic; formed due to the heat and pressure from the formation of the mountains of Pennsylvania.

**Bituminous** – soft coal; most common type of coal; found primarily in Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and other places around the world.