

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Patch Town Schools

Adapted from explorepahistory.com



Eckley Miners' Village Museum  
Eckley, Pennsylvania

## Introduction:

If you lived in a coal patch town would you be at school? Almost all children went to school at least for a short period of time. Schools were typically located right in the patch town and run by the local church. All children had to walk to school, which meant if your school wasn't located in your town you had to walk a few miles to get to class. Most schools were one-room schoolhouses with one teacher who taught all children, regardless of what grade they were in. Many students did not speak English until they learned it in school. Many of the schools also required students to buy books, pencils, and other school supplies. This was very difficult because many students had miners as parents and could not afford the supplies. Before the 1920s, many students did not complete the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Kids would leave school to help their parents make extra money; boys would go to work in the mines, and girls would go to work in a factory.

## Questions:

1. Describe what school would have been like in a coal patch town.
2. What were some problems students might have had?
3. What kind of problems would students face if they didn't speak English?