

History: Why was mining important to our local area?

C 1760	1816	1842	1866	1914-1918	1926	1943	1950-1960	2015
The start of the industrial revolution leads to a huge expansion in coal mining.	The newly invented Davy safety lamp is used for the first time	The Mines and Collieries Act of 1842 makes it illegal for all women and girls and boys under the age of 10 to work underground	The Oaks Colliery near Barnsley suffers a huge explosion, killing 388 miners and rescuers.	Shortage and rationing of coal due to miners being recruited into the army.	The general strike begins.	One in 10 young men are conscripted to work in the coal mines, rather than the armed forces, to support the war effort. They are known as the 'Bevin Boys'	Increasing demand for lower pollution levels and cheaper fuel triggers gradual decline in coal use. Many pits close across the UK.	Kellingley Colliery, the last deep coal mine in Britain, closes.

Vocabulary	Definition
Coal Mining	Taking coal from the ground
Miner	Someone who works in a mine
Industrial Revolution	A period of time when more work was done by steam-powered machines rather than by hand.
Colliery	A coal mine, its buildings and machines.
Pit	A hole or series of underground tunnels where coal is taken.
Strike	Where workers stop work to force their boss to agree to demands such as better pay.
Import	To buy or bring goods from another country
Industry	The production of goods in factories
Davy Lamp	A safety lamp designed to be used in mines to reduce risk of fires or explosions.

Why did we need coal?



- Many machines were designed during the Industrial Revolution
- Machines were powered by steam engines which needed coal
- Coal was used to power iron, steel works, mills, factories and railways, as well as providing heat at home.

What was it like to be a coal miner in our local area?



- Long hours
- Cramped and dark spaces.
- Very dangerous
- Laws were passed to improve working conditions and safety equipment, including the Davy Lamp, was introduced.

What impact did war have on coal mining?



- During World War 1, miners joined the army because they could use their skills to dig trenches.
- This caused a lack of miners, which led to coal shortages.
- During World War 2, a government minister called Ernest Bevin introduced a 'no choice lottery' where one in 10 men were sent to work in the mines. They were known as the Bevin Boys.

Why did the coal miners go on strike?



- The General Strike happened in 1926
- Mine owners wanted them to work longer hours for less money
- Many people supported the miners
- A lot of disruption
- Miners went back to work 9 days later

Why did coal mining end?



- Coal mining industry declined in 1950's
- Cheaper to import coal from other countries
- Gas and oil became more popular as they were cleaner sources of power.
- Last deep mine in the UK, Kellingley Colliery in North Yorkshire, closed in 2015.