

Magnificent Miners



Key Knowledge

- Whole families used to work in coal mines (including children).
- Coal mining changed over time with the invention of new machinery. The first mines were dug by hand and with basic equipment such as an axe. More modern mines were dug using large machinery.
- Horses (pit ponies) were used for a long time in coal mines to help to pull machinery and coal tubs.
- Mines were dangerous places to work. Safety equipment improved over time. The Davy lamp was a safe way of warning miners of dangerous gasses in the mine. Before this, canaries were used. Safety helmets were introduced to protect the miners' heads.
- Coal mines were an important source of employment within the local area (South Kirkby mine).
- The Silkstone mining disaster helped to change future laws in mining to protect children.

Vocabulary

Definition

Hewer	A miner who cuts coal from a seam.
Davy lamp	A type of safety lamp that was used in coal mines.
Thruster	A person that pushed tubs of coal with their hands and the tops of their heads. This was usually a child or a woman.
Trapper	A person that opened and closed the wooden doors in a mine. This was usually a child.
Hurrier	A person that pulled a tub of coal through the coal mine. This was usually a child or a woman.
Bell pit	A narrow, deep hole in the ground. This was one of the first methods of mining.
Queen Victoria	The Queen of the United Kingdom from 1837 to 1901.
Parliament	A group of people in power that meet to discuss, make and change laws.
Democracy	People are able to choose their leaders by voting.



Timeline

