



Lamp challenge

New inventions and technology often come out of problems and disasters. In 1812 92 miners, men and boys were killed in an explosion at Felling Colliery. This led to a prize being offered to someone who could invent a safe lamp that would not ignite firedamp (methane). Two men took up the challenge Sir Humphrey Davy a London scientist who was a member of the Royal Society and George Stephenson who was an engineer in the North East.

They both came up with similar ideas at the same time – Davy who used a fine gauze to protect the flame from gas and Stephenson who used a tube with holes bored in. There was controversy over who won but Davy won the £2000 prize. The invention did not fully solve the problem and there were changes made until became the iconic style we know today.

Your challenge

Download and print the template to create your own 3D lamp. You can even add coloured tissue paper and a torch to mimic the flame.





