TEACHER GALLERY GUIDE

You are welcome to bring cameras and record your visit. You might want to takes notes or draw pictures but most of all we hope you enjoy your time discovering and talking about our wonderful stories and objects.

The National Coal Mining Museum for England tells the story of the coal mining industry and the communities that grew up around it. There are so many things to see and do in our galleries and heritage buildings that will keep your pupils focussed, excite their curiosity and fuel learning across the curriculum.

This resource has been designed to prompt conversations and guide your exploration of our unique spaces. The Museum is not set out in chronological order so there is not a set route to follow and this guide can be used in any order that you wish. You may have several groups and may want to start exploring in different places. You can use the guide between taking the underground tour and any workshops that you have booked. There is a number on each sheet, which corresponds to locations on the Museum map.

Each stopping place in the guide has some background information, several key questions to help you start conversations with your group, and activities and objects to look out for in the gallery or building to encourage your pupils' exploration and discovery.

There may be limited access to some galleries if there are workshops taking place.

NATIONAL COAL MINING MUSEUM

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MINING LIVES EXHIBITION

FIND OUT ABOUT

- The scale of the industry at its height and how it ended.
- The different jobs that miners did.

BACKGROUND

- The mining industry was at its height in 1913 when it had high production and many people working in the industry.
- Mines were closed down from the 1970s due to several factors: the use of oil, natural gas being used in power stations and the Clean Air Act.
- There were many different jobs and roles in the mining industry both underground and on the surface. These included surveyors, engineers, joiners and for women on the surface Pit Nurse, canteen workers and wages office.
- Caphouse was a working mine before it became a Museum in 1998.

KEY QUESTIONS

- What year was mining production at its height?
- Why was less coal needed?
- What were some of the jobs that miners did?
- What year was coal first found at Caphouse?
- When did Caphouse stop being a working mine?

CAN YOU FIND?

- The graphs showing figures about the mining industry?
- The last sack of coal from Kellingley colliery which shut in 2015?
- The equipment used by Pit Nurses at Caphouse Medical Room?
- The word cloud with the different jobs from the mining industry? How many can you count?

DID YOU KNOW?

- The last deep mine in the United Kingdom was Kellingley which shut in 2015.

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MINING LIVES EXHIBITION

FIND OUT ABOUT

- Mining disasters and the dangers of working in a mine.
- The special clothing rescue teams wore.
- How miners were looked after by the Unions and CISWO.

BACKGROUND

- Mining was a very dangerous job. There were many injuries and deaths. After nationalisation in 1947 CISWO helped to look after miners to improve their health and well being.
- The Hartley Disaster happened in 1862 when 402 men died. The disaster happened because there was only one exit out of the mine and it became blocked by a beam from the pump engine which, broke off and fell down the shaft. Despite rescue attempts from the sinker William Coulson and his team many died from lack of air. After this tragedy a law was passed which said all mines had to have two shafts.
- Mines had rescue teams – groups of highly trained men that would help miners when there were accidents or disasters.
- Miners unions were set up to help improve conditions and ensure miners were paid a fair wage. Miners could go on strike to make the managers take notice of what they wanted as they did in the 1920s, 1970s and 1980s.

KEY QUESTIONS

- How did CISWO help injured miners?
- In what year did the Hartley disaster take place?
- How did Rescue Team clothing change over time?
- What did Unions do for miners?
- Why is there a trumpet on display?

CAN YOU FIND?

- The brass band sculpture.
- The painting of someone receiving a telegram from Queen Victoria.
- The badges issued by the Unions.
- The bashed up helmet.
- The ration book from WWII.
- Clothes to dress up like a miner or someone working in the Medical room.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Bevin Boys were conscripted to work in the mines.

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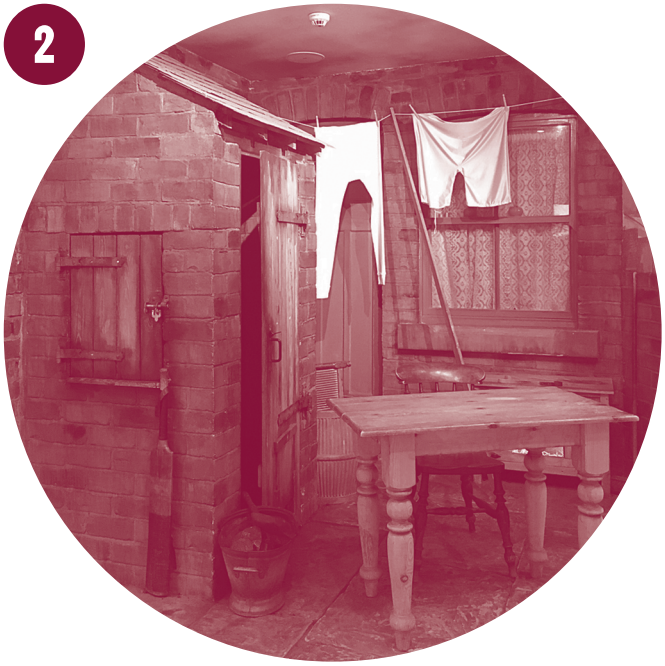

MINING LIVES EXHIBITION

PARKINSON'S YARD

FIND OUT ABOUT

- What living in a pit village was like.
- The importance of women in mining communities.
- How miners spent their leisure time and were creative.

BACKGROUND

- Many miners lived in pit villages, some of which were provided by the mine owners and then by the National Coal Board after nationalisation in 1947.
- Women were at the heart of mining communities, looking after their men, families and homes. During the 1984/5 Miners' Strike women protested on the picket lines and ran soup kitchens to provide meals.
- Miners liked to spend much of their leisure time doing things like sports, tending their allotments or keeping pigeons.
- Coal mining inspired both miners and others to paint, write or play music about the industry.

KEY QUESTIONS

- When were women stopped from working underground?
- What did women do in the 1984/5 Miners' Strike?
- What are the differences between your home and the backyard here?
- What did miners do in their leisure time?

CAN YOU FIND?

- The sculpture of the flower.
- The boxing gloves.
- The spanner and who used it.
- The photographer taking a photo.
- Sketch book of miners.
- The silver swimming costume.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Women were banned from working underground 1842.

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STEAM WINDING HOUSE

FIND OUT ABOUT

- How steam engines work.
- What the steam engine was used for.
- An important historical figure – Emma Lister Kaye.

BACKGROUND

- This engine is powered by steam, which was made by burning coal in large boilers.
- It was installed in 1876 by Emma Lister Kay.
- The engine helped increase production because it meant the cage could transport more coal, materials and men up and down the shaft.
- The engine was operated by the Banksman. He communicated with miners underground using signals – a series of rings that let miners know when the cage was moving up and down.

KEY QUESTIONS

- What was the steam engine used for?
- Can you find the date stone? Why do you think people put date stones on buildings?
- What do you find surprising about a woman running a mine in the 19th century?
- How did miners communicate with each other so they knew when the cage was moving up and down?

CAN YOU FIND?

- The shafts signals and have a go at using them?
- The cable that connects to the headgear outside.
- The most unusual thing in the building - tell a friend.

DID YOU KNOW?

- This steam engine was bought second hand in 1876 and is still in working order.
- The engine was built in Sheffield.

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VICTORIAN GALLERY

FIND OUT ABOUT

- What jobs women and children did.
- What working conditions were like underground in the 19th century.

BACKGROUND

- Up until 1842 families worked underground together to produce coal.
- Women put the coal in tubs which were 'hurried' by women or older children.
- Younger children worked as trappers, sitting in the dark, opening doors to allow the tubs to be moved.
- In 1842 a report was produced by Lord Ashley (Earl of Shaftesbury) that led to a law which forbade women and boys under 10 from working underground.
- Women continued to work on the surface and were known as Pit Brow lasses.

KEY QUESTIONS

- What jobs were done by women and children? Look at the pictures to help you.
- What changed in 1842?
- What was the name given to women who worked on the surface?
- How does your childhood compare to that of a child miner?

CAN YOU FIND?

- The push button interactive, which reveals how children got underground.
- The images of women and children working.
- Dressing up clothes in the basket.
- The tunnel to crawl through .
- The most unusual thing in the gallery and tell a friend.

DID YOU KNOW?

- No women worked underground between 1842 and 1989.

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TECHNOLOGY GALLERY

DOWNSTAIRS

FIND OUT ABOUT

- A Light in the Darkness – why and how the safety lamp was invented.
- The different power sources mining has used.

BACKGROUND

- The problems faced by miners everyday were roof falls, dangerous gases, flooding and the dark.
- Miners started out using candles to provide light underground, but these could cause explosions. This was shown in the Felling Disaster of 1812.
- The disaster led to the invention of the safety lamp- both Sir Humphry Davy and George Stephenson worked on a lamp; both used a gauze to protect the flame and stop the gas in 1815.
- The design of lamps has changed over the years. One company - Wolf-that made lamps was run by Monica Maurice, a remarkable woman, in the twentieth century.
- There are different power sources that have been used in mining which includes steam, compressed air, and electricity.
- The method of getting coal has changed from hand tools to mighty machines.

KEY QUESTIONS

- Why was a safety lamp needed?
- Who invented the first safety lamps?
- Which woman ran the Wolf company?
- What power sources were used underground?
- What different tools and methods were used to get the coal out?

CAN YOU FIND?

- The tunnel at the entrance to crawl through- how would it have felt to work in that space for 12 hours a day?
- The age and name of the youngest victim of the Felling Disaster.
- The experiments to help Sir Humphry Day
- The Davy lamp.
- 3 fascinating facts.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The big coal cutting machines were taken down in pieces and put back together like a big jigsaw.

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TECHNOLOGY GALLERY

UPSTAIRS

FIND OUT ABOUT

- How coal was transported underground.
- How coal was transported on the surface.
- How miners communicated.

BACKGROUND

- Coal had to be moved both underground and on the surface.
- The earliest way of moving coal was using corf baskets on a sled – you can see examples of these.
- Women and children pulled tubs until 1842. Ponies were then were used. Eventually ponies were replaced with locomotives and conveyor belts.
- On the surface coal was moved first by hand and then using wagonways (see the Little Eaton Wagon), canals and railways.
- Communication between miners underground and the surface was important. Miners used different signals and phones to communicate with each other.

KEY QUESTIONS

- How was coal moved underground? Can you find at least 3 different methods?
- Where were wagonways used? Can you find the wagon and where it was from?
- What other methods of transport were used?
- How did miners communicate underground?

CAN YOU FIND?

- The Whitehaven corf, which was used until the 1870s.
- The signal interactives to show the different types of communication.
- The Little Eaton wagon.
- The name plates of the locomotive engines.
- The most unusual thing in the gallery and tell a friend.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The control room from Kellingley Colliery has been re-created to show how it was set up when the mine closed in 2015.

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PITHEAD BATHS

FIND OUT ABOUT

- What the Pithead Baths were used for.
- Why miners had two lockers.

BACKGROUND

- Before the baths were built in 1938, miners had to go home dirty and bathe in a tin bath in front of a fire or in the back yard. This would have been hard work for the women at home.
- At the start of a shift, a miner would walk through the clean side and leave his clothes in a locker. At the end of the shift he would go to his locker in the dirty side where he would put his working clothes.
- Miners were able to buy soap from the Pithead Baths attendant. The attendant kept the baths clean.
- After nationalisation in 1947 many pits got a medical room to treat miners for injuries etc.
- Miners had different jobs, such as being an electrician, joiner (carpenter) or being in the rescue team.
- Miners collected their wages weekly from the wages office.

KEY QUESTIONS

- When were the pithead baths built?
- What are the clean side and dirty side?
- What did the Pit Head Baths assistant do?
- Where do you have a wash? How is this different to the miners?

CAN YOU FIND?

- The information and pictures at the entrance.
- The lockers with objects belonging to the miners.
- Lockers showing different jobs done by the miners.
- The medical room.
- The lads' wages list in the wages office.
- The rules for using the baths.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Miners often washed each other's backs. They particularly wanted to get coal dust out of any cuts because as the cuts healed it left marks known as 'blue back'.