

Aunty Brenda's Pit Village Past

Duration: 30 minutes

Available: Monday-Friday

Group size: up to 17 pupils per session

Cost: £30 per workshop

Location: Parkinson's Yard (The Hub)



Basic Information

Pupils meet Aunty Brenda in the backyard of her terraced house in 1967. Pupils handle objects and listen to Aunty Brenda's stories of growing up in a mining community.

Breakdown of session

It is 1967 and pupils meet Aunty Brenda as she is in the middle of packing her belongings in preparation to move from the pit village where she has lived all of her life. Aunty Brenda shows pupils around her terraced house (museum set) and tells them stories about living in this pit village, referencing the passage of time and how things have changed. She shows pupils her rag rug, which models how objects can tell us about the past. Pupils work in small groups to select objects and images from a box that they think Aunty Brenda should take with her when she moves to remind her about her old life. Brenda uses their responses to recall more memories about her family and illustrate how life has changed.

How can group leaders help?

Part of the workshop requires pupils to work in small groups to handle and explore objects. It would be helpful if group leaders could guide pupils' exploration by encouraging them to share ideas and ask questions. Your enthusiasm and participation is appreciated.

Links to topics

- Homes in the past
- Coal mining history
- Local history
- Life in a mining community

Learning Outcomes

Pupils will apply and develop historical enquiry and investigative skills as they listen to stories, handle objects and look at images from the Museum collection. Pupils will understand:

- That coal was once an important everyday part of life
- That coal mining was once a shared way of life for people living in pit communities
- What a typical pit home was like in the 1960s and that the job of a miner's wife was to look after her children, husband and home
- We can find out about the past through a range of sources including objects, images, documents and people

Links to curriculum

KS1/2 History

- Local history study (significant aspect of history or site from period beyond 1066)
- Changes within living memory
- Significant people and places (miners and pits) in their own locality
- Historical enquiry skills – how we find out about the past and how interpretations are constructed

Other places to visit on site

Mining Lives Exhibition: Find out how miners spent their leisure time, dress up in mining clothes
The Pithead baths are an original pit building dating back to 1938, where miners showered at the end of a shift. Before they were built (with funding from the Miner's Welfare Fund) miners had to wash at home, usually in a tin bath with water heated on a coal-fired range.

Ponies and Stables: Meet our ponies to find out what important jobs pit ponies did and what their life was like underground.

Victorian Gallery: Find out about the jobs that children did underground in the 19th Century.

Technology Gallery: Find out about the problems that miners faced underground, the tools they used and how men and coal were transported.

Suggested Pre Visit Activities

- Find out what coal is and how it was used in homes for heating, cooking and washing. What do we use to get these jobs done today? Does anyone still have a coal fire at home?
- Look at different picture of houses through time. How do they compare to where pupils live now?
- Pupils could bring in an object or picture in from home that connects to special memory. Practise looking and asking questions about the objects or pictures to find out what stories they tell.
- Have a look at some of the images on our image bank. What stories do they tell?
<https://www.ncm.org.uk/learning/learning-resources/image-bank>

Suggested Post Visit Activities

- Pupils ask their family and friends about what life was like for them growing up in their area. What has changed? How is life different now?
- Compare and contrast Brenda's house and backyard with a modern home.
- Make a class rag rug using recycled materials. What stories and memories will your rug prompt?
- Use our resources and other sources to find out more about brass bands and mining banners. You could make a class banner.
- Sing along to songs about coal mining <http://www.efdss.org/efdss-education/resource-bank/resources-and-teaching-tools/in-our-own-words>