

Immersive Day - First Day at Pit

Duration: Full day visit (9.30-14.30)

Available on selected dates: See website for details

Group size: up to 34 pupils

Cost: £150 (including UG tour)

Location: Pit Head baths, Education Activities room



Basic Information

This is a cross-curricular, immersive experience during which pupils will certainly get their hands dirty! Pupils should arrive at Museum dressed up ready for their first day at work in the mine. They will take part in a range of interactive activities, which will give them an insight into the working life of a miner.

Breakdown of session

Introduction

Pupils meet a miner and their mentor (one of our staff in role) who will show them how to make checks (discs used for checking who was down the mine) and provide an introduction to the day.

Pupils then divide into two groups to take part in two interactive activities:

A: Getting down to work (*special Underground tour*)

In this special tour, pupils discover what mining was like before the industry was nationalised (pre1947) and what changes the National Coal Board (NCB) introduced. Children will get the opportunity to shovel coal and to set support props.

B: Role- play session (Pithead Baths, Education Activities room)

Pupils will explore the Pit Head baths and get to handle Museum objects as they learn about the routine of a miner's day at work and find out about clothing and safety. Pupils will take part in simple aptitude tests to see which area of mining they might specialise in. At the end of this session pupils will listen to and perform a poem inspired by mining.

After lunch the two groups will swap around.

How can group leaders help?

Encourage the class to come to the Museum dressed up ready to get to work. It would be helpful if group leaders could support groups during the handling session and encourage them to share ideas and ask questions. Your enthusiasm and participation is much appreciated.

Links to topics

- Coal mining history
- Local history
- Life in a mining community

Learning Outcomes

Pupils will apply and develop communication, enquiry and investigative skills as they take part in a range of activities. Pupils will:

- Empathise with miners and understand what it was like on their first day at work
- Know the daily routines of a miner and what different jobs they had to do
- Develop communication, team work and problem solving skills during group work tasks

Links to curriculum

KS1/2 History

- Local history study (significant aspect of history or site from period beyond 1066)
- 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

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

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

Suggested Pre Visit Activities

- Find out what coal is and what it was used for. Why was it in demand?
- Find out where the nearest coal mine to your school was and any facts about the industry in your local area.
- Discuss what a typical day is like for pupils and their parents/carers. What different jobs do people do?

Suggested Post Visit Activities

- Write an account of the first day at the pit.
- Look at how the way miners' work has changed over time. You could use our [Image bank](#) to help compare and contrast working conditions over time.
- Write another verse for the poem, 'Skills for the job' – or a poem of your own
- Produce a recruitment leaflet to encourage people to work down the pit.
- Borrow a [Loans box](#).