

## Be a Victorian Child Miner

**Duration:** Full day visit (10.00-14.30)

**Available on selected dates:** see website for details

**Group size:** up to 34 pupils

**Cost:** £150

**Location:** Victorian Gallery, Technology Gallery and the Power House



### *Basic Information*

This is a cross-curricular, immersive experience. Pupils come to the Museum dressed-up ready to be Victorian child miners for the day. They take part in a range of interactive activities, which will give them an insight into the lives of Victorian Child Miners.

### *Breakdown of session*

#### **Introduction (Technology Gallery)**

Pupils meet Sally Fletcher (one of our staff in role as a Victorian Mine worker) who will show them how to make a motty out of clay (a kind of tag used by families attached to the coal tubs they filled as a way of keeping track of how much they mined and therefore how much they got paid) and teach them a song about working underground. **Pupils then divide into two groups** to take part in two interactive activities:

#### **A: Getting down to work (*this takes place at the Power House which is a 10 min walk*)**

In teams of 'working families' pupils complete a mining challenge (filling and moving coal using a tub).

#### **B: Role play session with Sally Fletcher (Victorian Gallery)**

Sally tells the story of the jobs she did underground. Pupils take part in some simple role play activities and do a creative writing task.

After lunch and in two separate groups the pupils will meet a miner to go underground:

#### **Going Underground: Hands-On Tour**

Pupils take a Hands-On underground tour and have a go at some of the mining jobs children would have done in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

### *How can group leaders help?*

Encourage the class to come to the Museum dressed in Victorian clothes, ready to get to work. It would be helpful if group leaders could support small groups during the mining challenge and encourage them to share ideas and ask questions during the Sally Fletcher session. Your enthusiasm and participation is much 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 communication, enquiry and investigative skills as they take part in a range of activities. Pupils will:

- Know the different jobs children did underground and how a family had to work together
- Understand the working conditions children had to endure underground in the early 1800's
- Empathise with the children who worked underground and make comparisons between life then and now
- Develop literacy skills for creative writing task
- Apply and develop scientific enquiry skills as they solve a mining engineering challenge
- Develop communication and problem solving skills during group work tasks

## Links to curriculum

### KS1/2 History

- a. study over time tracing how several aspects of national history are reflected in the locality (this can go beyond 1066)
- b. A study of an aspect of history or a site dating from a period beyond 1066 that is significant in the locality.

### KS2 Science

- a. Working scientifically
- b. Forces

## 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.

**Steam Winding Engine House:** Find out how this C19th mechanism moved men and equipment up and down the shaft.

## Suggested Pre Visit Activities

- Find out what coal is and what it was used for in Victorian times. Why was it in demand?
- Find out where your nearest coal mine was and any facts about the industry in your local area.
- Discuss what a typical day is like for you and your class.

## Suggested Post Visit Activities

- Compare and contrast Sally's life with a child of today.
- Look at other historical sources to find out about life in Victorian times. What other ways can you find out about the past? What sources are the most reliable?
- Use our folk music resource <http://www.efdss.org/efdss-education/resource-bank/resources-and-teaching-tools/in-our-own-words>
- Use the Huskar Pit resource pack to find out about the Huskar Pit Disaster.
- Borrow a Victorians Loans box.
- Child labour sadly still exists today. Find out about children in other parts of the world who still have to work to support their family.