

Dig Deeper

Duration: 30 minutes

Available: Tuesdays and Thursdays

Group size: up to 17 pupils per session

Cost: £30 per workshop

Location: Learning Curve (Museum Visitor Centre)



Basic Information

Pupils meet a Miner Guide who leads an exploration of our interactive 3D model of Caphouse Colliery. Pupils handle objects and ask questions to find out how mining has changed over the last 100 years.

Breakdown of session

One of the Museum's Miner Guides will have the 3D model ready when you arrive at the Learning Curve. The model is built like a 3D jigsaw, and as each piece is taken off, a different aspect of mining is revealed. The miner will pass objects around to handle and there are also items of clothing to try on. This session covers health and safety equipment, tools, working conditions and the different jobs miners did.

How can group leaders help?

Pupils will get the most out of this session if they ask questions and join in with object handling. It would be helpful if group leaders could encourage pupils to share ideas and ask questions.

Links to topics

- Coal mining history
- Local history
- Health and safety

Learning Outcomes

Pupils will apply and develop historical enquiry skills as they listen, handle objects and ask questions. Pupils will understand that:

- coal was once an important everyday part of life
- coal miners needed special tools and clothing to carry out their work
- 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)
- Significant people and places (miners and pits) in their own locality
- Historical enquiry skills – how we find out about the past and construct interpretations

KS3 History

- Ideas, political power, industry & empire: Britain, 1745-1901
- Local history study (historical perspective: connections between local/national history)

Other places to visit on site

Mining Lives Gallery: Find out how miners spent their leisure time, dress up in mining clothes and look out for the coal delivery wagon, which would have been a common sight in mining villages.

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.

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

1842 Gallery: Find out about the jobs that children did underground in the 19th Century.

Coal Interface 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 some of the mining objects on our [Image Bank](#) - can you find out what they are?
- You could borrow a [Loans Box](#) before you come to do some background research on mining.
- 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.

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?
- What was your favourite mining object? Do a sketch and write a label for it.
- Take a look at our other [Learning Resources](#)
- Sing along to songs about coal mining <http://www.efdss.org/efdss-education/resource-bank/resources-and-teaching-tools/in-our-own-words>