

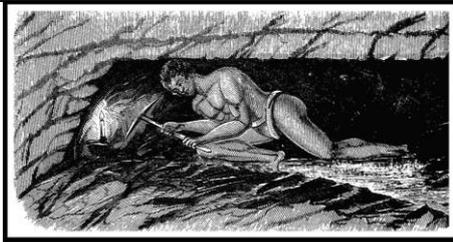
Year 3 Knowledge Organiser

'Down The mine'



Jobs down the mine

The Hewer



The hewer's job was to mine the coal from the coal seam. He would use hand tools such as a sharp pick. The hewer would have to work in an area which could be less than 60 cm. The hewer would work with a single candle.

The Hurrier



Often crawling on hands and knees, the hurrier would pull the tubs or corves of coal along the roadways to the pit-bottom. They had to wear belts attached to a heavy chain. This chain passed between their legs and was attached to the coal tub.

The Thruster



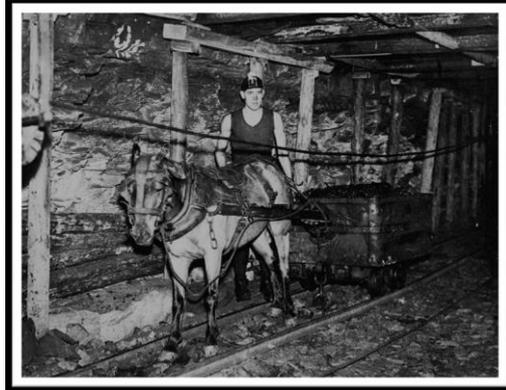
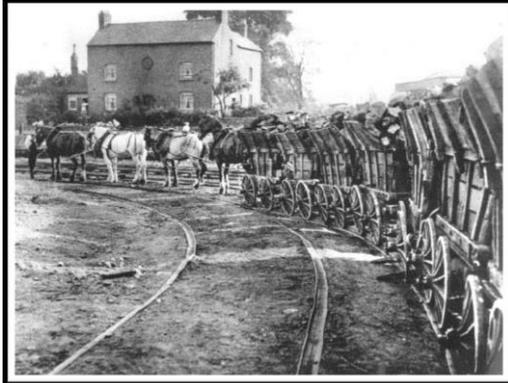
This job was often done by girls working with a hurrier. The hurrier would pull the tubs and the thruster's job was to push the tub with her hands and her forehead. Some thrusters might lose their hair by pushing the heavy tubs with their head.

The Trapper



Children started work as young as five years old. They sat at the wooden ventilation doors, opening them when hurriers brought loaded tubs to the pit-bottom or returned with empties, and closing them again afterwards. It was a very responsible job for such young children as the whole ventilation system of the mine depended on them; one door left open could starve the pit of air. Although it was not a physically hard job it was very boring and lonely. Trappers could not usually afford a candle, and would sit in the dark for long periods.

Pit Ponies



Pit ponies were mainly used in coal mines in the 1800s and early to mid-1900s. They did a variety of jobs.

On the surface at a mine, horses measuring 1.7 metres (16 hands) were used to transport coal and mining materials such as timber for roof supports.

The majority of ponies worked underground. They took full tubs of coal to a collecting point and they would bring empty tubs back to the coal face.

Ponies were also used to transport supplies such as tools, equipment, new pit-props or items needed for repairing parts of the mine.

Four important characteristics made ponies suitable for the work and the conditions found in coal mines.

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| • Size | small ponies could work in low and narrow roadways. |
| • Strength | they could pull several tubs at the same time and work long hours. |
| • Hardiness | ponies could cope with the harsh working and environmental conditions of the pit. |
| • Intelligence | a pony could be trained to do the job. |

