

Working underground word search

In 1842, a law was passed that stopped children, aged nine years old or under, and women from working underground in Britain. Before then, whole families commonly worked underground.

Before 1842, children would usually start working underground aged about eight years old, but some were as young as five. They would work the same hours as adults, sometimes longer, for far less wages. It was dangerous and dirty work and between 1774 and 1908, more than a hundred children died in accidents in coalmines in just the Timsbury area of the Somerset coalfield.

Young boys were used to haul the coal away from the coalface. They used the 'guss and crook' in the Somerset coalmines. The guss (the rope) went around the waist and between the legs and was attached to the crook (the metal hook) to pull a sledge of coal.

The guss and crook continually bruised the skin, causing wheals and sores, and quite often at the end of a day's work blood trickled from the wounds.

Activity

Find the following words in the word search below.

accident	blood	bruise	children	coal
coalface	crook	dangerous	dirty	guss
hauling	hook	jobs	mine	rope
sledge	Somerset	sores	underground	wages
waist	wheals	women	working	wounds

s	r	t	f	n	d	j	w	t	e	d	s	t	s	s
l	l	p	n	o	e	a	o	c	i	s	n	r	d	o
a	o	a	o	e	g	m	a	b	u	d	e	h	n	r
o	a	l	e	e	d	f	o	g	s	u	r	a	u	e
c	b	v	s	h	l	i	m	w	n	p	d	u	o	s
r	k	r	f	a	w	i	c	d	r	i	l	l	w	o
x	s	y	o	v	n	w	e	c	g	p	i	i	a	w
q	g	c	q	e	h	r	o	q	a	k	h	n	x	b
t	s	i	a	w	g	q	k	r	y	b	c	g	r	y
s	o	m	e	r	s	e	t	h	k	d	a	u	o	v
w	s	u	o	r	e	g	n	a	d	i	i	y	p	a
a	x	u	c	r	o	o	k	l	d	s	n	r	e	g
x	n	s	v	c	x	g	u	m	e	b	e	g	t	e
d	d	y	e	g	d	e	l	s	h	w	m	c	o	y
h	o	o	k	c	s	s	y	n	d	s	e	c	s	c

This resource is one of a group of resources for KS1, 2 and 3 on the subject of the Somerset Coal Canal and coalfield.

More information from the [Somersetshire Coal Canal Society](http://www.somersetshirecoalcanal.co.uk).



Answers

15	S	+	T	+	N	D	J	W	+	E	+	S	+	S	S
14	L	L	+	N	O	E	A	O	C	+	S	N	+	D	O
13	A	+	A	O	E	G	M	A	B	U	+	E	H	N	R
12	O	+	L	E	E	D	F	O	G	S	U	R	A	U	E
11	C	B	+	S	H	L	I	M	W	N	+	D	U	O	S
10	+	+	+	+	A	W	I	C	D	+	+	L	L	W	+
9	+	+	+	O	+	N	W	E	C	+	+	I	I	+	+
8	+	+	C	+	E	+	R	O	+	A	+	H	N	+	B
7	T	S	I	A	W	G	+	+	R	+	+	C	G	R	+
6	S	O	M	E	R	S	E	T	+	K	D	+	U	O	+
5	+	S	U	O	R	E	G	N	A	D	I	I	+	P	+
4	+	+	U	C	R	O	O	K	+	+	S	N	R	E	+
3	+	N	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	E	+	+	G	T	+
2	D	+	+	E	G	D	E	L	S	+	+	+	+	+	Y
1	H	O	O	K	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15

Hidden words by starting grid reference and direction

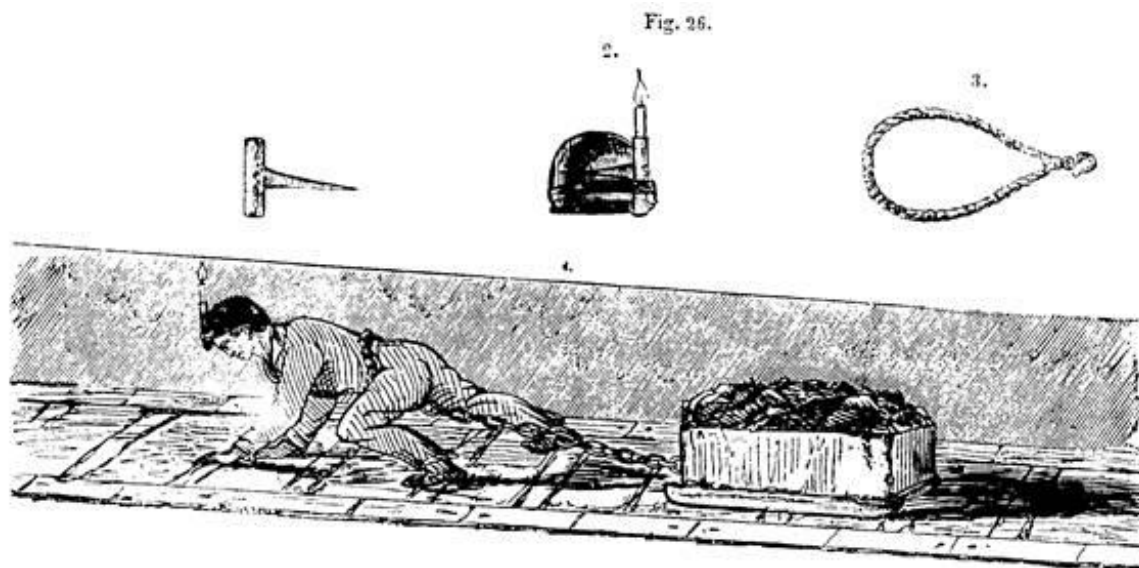
- accident (10,8,nw)
- blood (2,11,ne)
- bruise (15,8,sw)
- children (12,7,n)
- coal (1,11,n)
- coalface (3,8,ne)
- crook (4,4,e)
- dangerous (10,5,w)
- dirty (11,6,se)
- guss (9,12,ne)
- hauling (13,13,s)
- hook (1,1,e)
- jobs (7,15,se)
- mine (8,11,sw)
- rope (14,7,s)
- sledge (9,2,w)
- Somerset (1,6,e)
- sores (15,15,s)
- underground (11,12,sw)
- wages (8,15,sw)
- waist (5,7,w)
- wheals (6,10,nw)
- women (9,11,nw)
- working (7,9,se)
- wounds (14,10,n)

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Suggested extension activity

Use the image from the accompanying PowerPoint (and below) to ask the pupils to write a short diary extract of a day in the life of a young boy hauling coal using the guss and crook, e.g. as the boy's first day.



1. The candle-holder: a socket of iron, having a spike at right angles for the convenience of sticking the light in the sides of the pit when stationary. The spike also forms a handle when the light is carried before them.
2. A skull-cap, having a leather band, into which the candle-holder is thrust when the hands are employed in locomotion.
3. The girdle and book for attaching to the chain.
4. Represents the position of the girdle.

Hauling coal with the guss and crook

Public domain image used courtesy of the US Library of Congress

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