

Year 6 – Coal Not Dole British Citizenship Theme



Through this unit of work, pupils will take part in a local history study exploring the Miners' Strike of the 1980's, in Barnsley. They will explore the reasons for the strike and consider its impact on the lives of local miners and their families. They will then explore the long-term impact of the Strike on the local area and the way that the local area has adapted for regeneration.

Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship

- I realise the consequences of anti-social, aggressive and harmful behaviour.
- I know what to do if I become concerned about terrorist activity.
- I explore the concept of democracy and democratic societies.
- I have an understanding of how UK parliament works.
- I know about the dangers and consequences of carrying knives.
- I appreciate different moral attitudes to fairness and responsibilities.
- I know some cultural practices are against British laws and human rights.
- I can consider the issue of restorative justice.

Geography Skills

- Name and locate counties and cities of the UK relevant to areas of study.
- Locate key physical and human characteristics, key topographical features and land use patterns and explain how these aspects have changed over time.
- Confidently use OS symbols on maps.
- Use a range of OS maps to study areas.
- Study maps and aerial photographs to investigate changes in land use.
- Draw conclusions and develop informed reasons for the changes.
- Use 6 figure grid references to identify countries, cities and human and physical aspects.

What was life like for a coal miner in 1980's Barnsley?

In history, pupils will know:

- In 1984, coal was a nationalised industry managed by the National Coal Board employing almost 200,000 people.
- The Government, led by Margaret Thatcher, questioned how profitable many mines were and in March 1984, the NCB announced that twenty mines were to close and up to 100,000 people were to lose their jobs.
- The National Union of Mineworkers, led by Arthur Scargill, and other unions resisted this.
- Arthur Scargill was born and raised in Barnsley.
- On 5 March 1984, coal miners took industrial action against pit closures and almost 165,000 miners went on strike.
- The Battle of Orgreave was a violent confrontation in June 1984 between pickets and officers of the South Yorkshire Police and other police forces.
- Thousands of miners were arrested, fined, imprisoned or sacked.
- WAPC is a support group that started in Barnsley. A number of women got together to help mining families. This included running community kitchens for the pickets and their families and collecting money for food parcels.
- The miners returned to work in March 1985. Many marched back to their pits with their banners and bands as a sign of their solidarity.
- However, despite further marches and speeches, the NCB announced a plan to close pits.
- In Barnsley, this started a long- term economic decline with high levels of unemployment and many areas becoming run down and dilapidated and in social deprivation.

History Skills

- Investigate own lines of enquiry by carrying out detailed research using the most appropriate source.
- Realise there is often not a single answer to historical questions.
- Give clear reasons why there may be different accounts of history.
- Understand that some evidence from the past is propaganda, opinion or misinterpretation.
- Evaluate evidence to choose the most reliable form.

In geography, pupils will know:

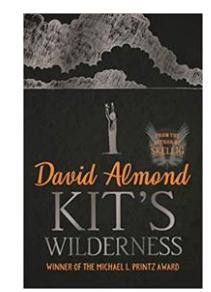
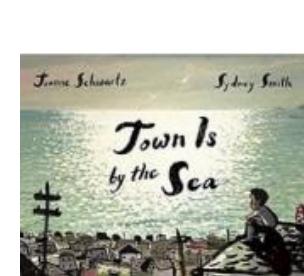
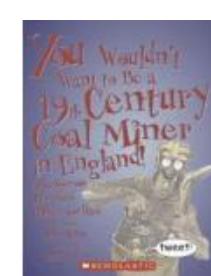
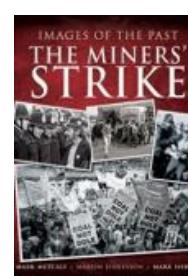
- The mine closures in Barnsley, started a long- term economic decline with high levels of unemployment and many areas becoming run down and dilapidated and in social deprivation.
- Since the closure of the mines in Barnsley there has been significant change in land use, particularly in the Dearne Valley.
- That traditional industry has been replaced with modern businesses
- That Barnsley is an attractive option to new businesses because of its physical and human geography.



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Reading List – Topic Linked



Home Learning Ideas

Visit Barnsley Main reserve on Oaks Lane to learn more about the mining industry & the central role it played in the history of Barnsley.

Research the different jobs miners did down the mines. Which jib would you like to do?

Create a colliery banner to show your support to the miners from Cortonwood Colliery.

Identify the main uses of coal. Investigate other types of energy and what they are used for.



Research the mining disasters which happened in Barnsley (Oaks/Huskar) to find out more about what happened.

Ask relatives if they have any stories about coal mining or industry in your local area, record their stories.

Plan a trip to visit the National Coal Mining Museum to experience descending down a real mine.

Coal Not Dole!



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coal miner in 1980's
Barnsley?