

Firedamp and Davy Lamps.

Key Words

Key word	Meaning
Colliery	A coal mine, its buildings and machines.
Davy Lamp	A safety lamp designed to be used in mines to reduce the risk of fires or explosions.
General Strike	A strike that includes workers from all or most industries.
Industrial Revolution	A period of time when more work was done by steam-powered machines than by hand.
Sediment	Stones and sand grains that form a soft, wet substance.

Coal Mining During the Industrial Revolution:

During the Industrial Revolution, miners worked long hours in cramped spaces that were sometimes only 60-120cm high. Miner worked in complete darkness unless they could afford a candle or lamp.

Health, safety and disasters:

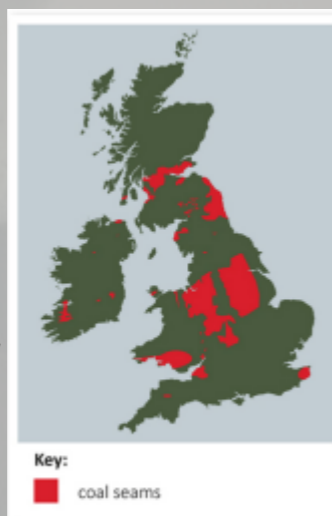
Mining was a very dangerous job during the Industrial Revolution. Over 1000 miners were killed every year in accidents underground. Pockets of gas deep underground suffocated miner and caused explosions that killed hundreds of people.

Timeline of coal mining since the Industrial Revolution.

- 1760** The Industrial Revolution begins and coal mining expands.
- 1816** The Davy lamp is used for the first time.
- 1842** The Mines and Collieries Act is passed.
- 1866** An explosion at the Oaks Colliery kills 388 people.
- 1911** Canaries are used to detect gas for the first time.
- 1914** The government takes control of coal mining to help the war effort.
- 1924** Pithead baths and canteens come into general use.
- 1926** The General Strike begins.
- 1943** Bevin Boys work in coal mines during the Second World War.
- 1945** The National Union of Mineworkers is formed.
- 1950** Coal mining in the UK begins to decline.
- 1972** The National Union of Mineworkers strike against wage cuts.
- 1984** The National Union of Mineworkers strike against pit closures.
- 2015** The last deep coal mine in the UK closes.
- 2017** Britain goes a full day without using coal power for the first time since the Industrial Revolution.

Coal Mining:

Coal has been used since Roman times. At first, coal was collected from drift mines where it was available near the surface. As this coal was used, miners dug further down through the Earth's surface. Deep mineshafts were sunk in the Victorian Era to access large amounts of coal seams.



Coal and War:

Mines were recruited not the army during the First World War because they were able to use their skills to dig trenches that went under enemy lines. However, this cause a lack of miners in the UK, which led to coal shortages and rationing.

End to mining in the UK:

The British coal mining industry went into decline in the 1950's. Coal imported from abroad was cheaper, and gas and oil were replacing coal as cleaner sources of power.

