

What impact has coal mining had on the North East?



Key Vocabulary

colliery	A coal mine and the buildings and equipment associated with it.
Davy lamp	A safety lamp for use in flammable atmospheres.
industry	Economic activity concerned with the processing of raw materials and manufacture of goods in factories.
shaft	Vertical tunnel that leads from the surface to the underground railways.
trapper	Child who opened and closed underground ventilation doors.
ventilation	System of getting fresh air into the mine and removing stale air.
wailer	Boy employed to pick slate, pyrites and other foul admixtures from the coal.

What Is Coal?

Coal is one of the main sources of energy in the world. It is a type of rock that can be burned to provide heat and electricity.

Coal is a fossil fuel. This means there is only a limited amount of it, which makes it a non-renewable source of energy.

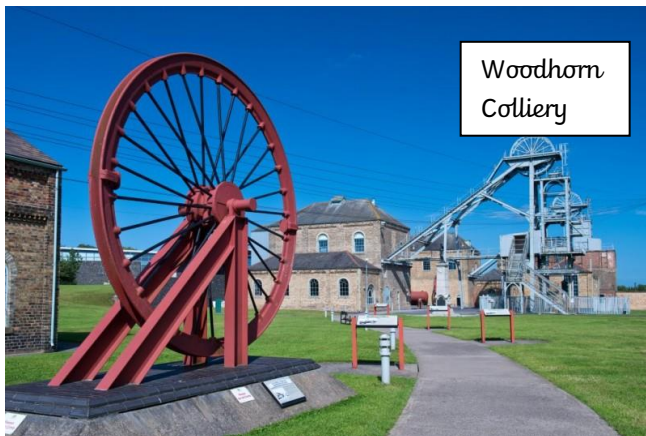
Coal mining in Britain

Coal is taken from the earth by mining. It can either be mined from the surface or by going underground.

Over the past 100 years, there have been hundreds of coal mines in the UK and this industry has played an important role in British history, particularly in the North East.

The Pitman Painters

A group of coal miners who produced hundreds of paintings showing what life was like both above and below ground for their mining communities in Northumberland.



Woodhorn Colliery



William Scott – The Bedlington Terrier 1936



Jimmy Floyd – Pigeon Crees 1938



Harry Wilson – Ashington Colliery 1936



Len Robinson – Wansbeck Bridge 1975