

Lithgow state mine heritage park & railway



Teachers Notes

The Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park & Railway educational exercise consists of an excursion to the venue, with related pre and post excursion activities.

1. Before the excursion

Read article "From a boy's first day...". (from "At the Coal Face"). Discuss miner's conditions and the treatment of the pit ponies. Review words such as wheeler, crib tin, flannel, tokens, spragging, clipper, trapper, tommy dodds etc.

Draw charcoal sketches of the work in an underground coal mine. Use the charcoal to reflect on the dirty, dismal and dangerous conditions.

Students could compile a list of items to look for whilst on the excursion to Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park & Railway. Here primary and secondary source material should be used.

Teacher could borrow artefacts from Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park & Railway to enable students to examine them prior to their visit and gain a sense of what the excursion might involve.

2. Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park & Railway Excursion

Visit the Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park & Railway. Guided tour through the Mining Museum, Steam Gallery, mining displays at the bath-house and the Saddle Tank steam locomotive 2605.

Discuss reasons for conserving this site as a museum. Students could write letters to Lithgow City Council requesting that preservation and restoration be continued.

Role play the jobs of coal miners using the artifact (optional).

Discuss coal miner's clothing and "safety" equipment.

Complete worksheet - labelling the coal mining equipment

3. After the Excursion

Learning Sequence 1: Part of our local heritage- Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park & Railway.

- * As a class identify what they know about Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park & Railway or anything they think is related to the museum. e.g. talk about where heritage park is located, who built it, when was it built, what it looked like then and what it looks like now, who worked there etc.
- * Display pictures of Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park & Railway for students to look at and talk about. Display these pictures while telling students about the history of the Lithgow State Coal Mine. (refer to web-site and related material for the history of Lithgow State Coal Mine).
- * In small groups of approximately 4 students create a poster on all they have found out about Lithgow State Coal Mine so far. Each group is to present their poster to the class. Posters should be kept so that students can add to or modify posters as they find out more about Lithgow State Coal Mine.

- * Identify features of Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park & Railway and objects that are at Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park & Railway. Items such as the types of transport on display, Blacksmith materials, mining equipment etc.
- * In groups students could research one of the items and then present the information to the rest of the class, so that students have background knowledge on exhibits that will be shown whilst on the excursion. Students could use encyclopaedias as well as information presented on the Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park & Railway web-site when researching. *
- * Review the information students gathered whilst on the excursion. Create a mind map placing Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park & Railway in the middle with students' information around it. A discussion comparing Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park & Railway to the houses which students live in may be useful. In small groups students could create a table that shows features of the museum in comparison to features of the house they live in. *

Learning Sequence 2: Evidence of past lives in Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park & Railway. Living and working around coal mines.

- * Recall information from previous learning experiences to identify people that have worked at the Lithgow State Coal Mine (or another local coal mine). Students should be aware of who owned the mine, if it changed hands, where it supplied coal and electricity to, level of mechanisation, industrial disputes, accidents and so on.
- * Construct a timeline showing when the mine was built, how many people worked there, up to 1964. Students can use information on the Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park & Railway web-site and/or activities and worksheets.
- * Read "The Coal Miner" (or "Bent Backs" and/or "At the Coal Face") and other material for what it was like for people who worked at the State Mine. Get students to imagine what it would have been to live in Lithgow and work in a coal many years ago. Students can then write either a diary entry or a memoir of their experience of what it was like working at the State Coal Mine. Memoirs could be displayed in classroom. Students could present their memoirs using fancy writing that looks old fashioned. On the paper they write the memoir on, students could stain it with coffee to make it look old.

Learning Sequence 3: Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park & Railway on Display

- * Students have a day in their class devoted to Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park & Railway, called State Coal Mine Day. Here students come to school dressed up as a character that has had something to do with the Lithgow State Coal Mine. Classes and parents visit and students show the work they have done on Lithgow State Coal Mine and give descriptions about various aspects of the Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park & Railway.

Writing activity (optional)

The Coal Chain - Flow Chart

- * Draw a flow chart of the various stages in the Coal Chain

Write about each stage in the mining, processing, transporting, distribution and uses of coal under each picture. Include safety regulations and environmental management of mines, as well as the rehabilitation of the area once the mine is closed.

Activity Overview

| Teaching / Learning Sequence | Outcomes | Indicators |
|---|----------|--|
| <p>Read article “Miners Did it Hard in the Bad Old Days”</p> <p>Discuss miner’s conditions and the treatment of the pit ponies. Review such word as “wheeler, crib tin, flannel, token, sprigging, clipper, trapper, tommy dodds etc.</p> <p>Draw charcoal sketches of the work in an underground coal mine. Use the charcoal to reflect the dirty, dismal and dangerous conditions.</p> | | |
| <p>Participate in the guided tour through the Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park & Railway.</p> <p>Discuss reasons for conserving this site as a mining museum. Students to write letters to Lithgow City Council requesting that preservation and restoration be continued.</p> <p>Role play the jobs of coal miners using the artefacts.</p> <p>Discuss miner’s clothing and safety equipment.</p> <p>Complete Worksheet – labelling the coal mining equipment.</p> | | <p>Uses historical information from primary sources to prepare a personal view on the debate topic.</p> <p>Evaluates the necessity of caring and conserving such a site. Gives reasons why the Lithgow State Mine Heritage Park & Railway should be conserved. Takes action to support the conservation of the State Mine.</p> |