

Coal and the Docks – Teacher Notes

Today we're going to be looking at industry in South Wales and one very important industry in particular: the coal industry.

Starter Discussion:

- Can anyone tell me what coal is used for?

It is burnt, it is used to make fires, it is a type of fuel, etc.

- Does anyone know where coal comes from?

Underground. It is made up of dead plants that get buried underground by layers of dirt and rocks. It takes millions of years to become coal.

- How do you think they got the coal out from underground?

Mines (which are tunnels or holes used to get the coal) and coal miners (the people who work in the mines and dig the coal out.)

Coal Miners (slides 2 – 8)

There were lots of coal mines in South Wales, which meant that they needed a lot of people to work in them as miners.

Slides 2 – 3 - These are census returns.

- What is a census?

This is when the government records details about everyone such as age, job and how many people live in each house.

This census return shows the people living on a street in Clydach Vale at the top of the Rhondda Valley.

- Can you see what jobs they were doing?

Either coal miners (sometimes noted as Collier) or children were recorded as scholars (school pupils).

- Can you find Edward John Davies?

Slide 3, 3rd name down

- How old was he?

13 years old

- What was his job?

Coal miner

Slide 4 - Look at this photograph of a group of miners.

- How old do you think they are?

A very mixed age range, some are quite old and some are very young and would be in school today.

- What do you think it would have been like to work underground?

It would have been dark, cold, cramped, etc.

Slides 5 – 8 - Look at these photographs of miners underground.

- Do you think they could stand up in the mines?

No, slides 5 and 6 show how cramped the space was.

- Do you think they got dirty while they were working underground?

Yes, **Slides 7 and 8** show dirty clothes being cleaned and a man having a wash after coming home from the mines.

Pollution from coal mines (Slide 9)

Slide 9 - Look at this photograph of a coal mine (photograph of Clydach Vale showing the collieries)

- What would it have been like to live near a coal mine?

It would have been noisy, dirty and smelly. There would have been lots of pollution caused by all the machines they used.

Transporting coal (Slides 10 – 16)

- How do you think they got the coal from the mines to the houses and factories that needed it?

Slide 10 - Look at this photograph – there's a clue here (railway lines)

- What sort of trains did they use?

Slide 11 - Steam trains

- What fuel did these trains use?

Coal

- What did they use to carry the coal?

Slides 12 – 14 show a photo of wagons and some adverts for them. These wagons would have been filled with coal and attached to the steam trains.

- Do you think they just used railway lines?

They also used trams and canals.

Slide 15 shows a barge on Glamorganshire Canal.

- What happened to the coal that was dug out of the mines in South Wales?

It was used for fires in Wales, the UK, and all across the world.

- Which countries do you think South Wales coal went to?

Slide 16 - Cardiff Yearbook 1921 shows a list of the countries (such as Sweden, Germany, Spain, Italy, Greece, Brazil, Egypt)

- How did it get all across the world?

By boat

- Where do you think these boats sailed from?

Cardiff Docks

We're going to look now at the history of Cardiff Docks.

Cardiff Bay: now and then (Slides 17 – 18)

- Do you know where Cardiff Docks are?

Today it is known as Cardiff Bay

- What happens in Cardiff Bay now? (You could make a note of some answers on the board to refer back to at the end)
- What do you think happened in Cardiff Bay in the past? (Again, note some answers on the board)

We're going to look at some documents now which will help us work out if you're right.

Look at a map of Cardiff Bay today

- Can you find places you know on it?

You could look for Techniquest, Wales Millennium Centre, Pierhead, Senedd etc.

Slide 17 – This is an older map of Cardiff Bay, or Cardiff Docks as the area was called then.

- Can you find places you know on these maps?

There is no Techniquest, no Mermaid Quay, no WMC, no Senedd, Pierhead, where is the Norwegian Church?

Slide 18 - This is an even older map (a tithe map) showing the Parish of St. Mary in Cardiff. St. Mary's started by the castle and ran all the way down to the Bay.

- Can you find places you know on this map?

The entrance to the dock is an oval shape - an oval basin. Today, this part of the Bay is known as Roald Dahl Plass.

Business in Cardiff Docks (Slides 19 – 20)

Slide 19 - This is a page from a trade directory. Trade directories listed all the businesses in Cardiff Docks.

- What did people use trade directories for?

To find businesses

- How do people find businesses now?

They might use google, 118, the phone book

The page on **slide 20** shows Mount Stuart Square.

- Why do you think it was called Mount Stuart Square?

It was named after the Marquess of Bute, who was also called Baron Mount Stuart.

- Who was the Marquess of Bute?

Baron Mount Stuart, also known as the Marquess of Bute. He built most of Cardiff Docks

- Why do you think he built Cardiff Docks?

He also owned coal mines and needed to send the coal on boats across the world so he could sell it.

- Can you think of any other streets and places in Cardiff that were named after the Marquess of Bute?

Bute Street, West Bute Street, Bute Park, Butetown

- What sort of businesses can you see on this list?

Examples – Lloyds Bank, coal companies, an engineer, an insurance company and shipbrokers (people who buy and sell ships)

Slide 20 - Trade directories also had adverts in them. This is an advert for a company called Barretts.

- What did they do?

They were ship builders

- Where was their office?

Mount Stuart Square

Buildings (Slides 21 – 26)

Slides 21 – 22- Here are some photos of buildings in Cardiff Docks.

- Do you recognise these buildings?

Slide 21 = Pierhead, slide 22 = Norwegian Church

Slide 23 - This is a photograph of one of the most important buildings in Cardiff Dock, which is still there today.

- Does anyone know what it's called?

The Coal Exchange

Slide 24 - These are building plans for the Coal Exchange.

- What are building plans? Why did people need them?

Building plans are birds eye drawings (to scale) which show what a building looks or will look like. People used them to make buildings the right shape and size and after buildings were finished the plans could be used to show what was inside.

Look closely at the plans.

- What do they tell us about what happened in the coal exchange?

There are lots of offices so it must have been a place of business.

Slide 25 - Here are some photographs of people inside the coal exchange.

- Who do you think they were? What do you think they were doing?

They are businessmen. They are buying and selling coal.

Slide 26 shows how much coal was exported from Cardiff between 1880-1893. The Coal Exchange was very important because so much coal was bought and sold in Cardiff – more than anywhere else in Britain. It was also the place where the first million pound deal was done.

People in Cardiff Docks (Slides 27 – 28)

- Who do you think lived in Cardiff Docks in the past?

Lots of businessmen lived there, also sailors and people who worked on the boats such as shipbuilders.

Slides 27 – 28 - We're going to look at the census returns from 1911 to find out who lived in Cardiff Docks then.

- Can you see what jobs they did? Do you know what these jobs were?

Fireman (put coal in the ship's boiler), Donkeyman (worked in the engine room, usually in charge of the donkey engine), Carpenter, Sailor

- Can you see where the people came from?

They came from all over the world - Turkey, London, Cyprus, Cardiff, Finland, Sweden, Russia and Australia.

- Why do you think these people came to live in Cardiff Docks?

They came to work on the ships.

Shipping (Slides 29 – 30)

Slide 29 - This is a crew agreement. Sailors had to sign this when they started working on board a ship.

- Can you see where these sailors came from?

Again all over the world (places such as Greece, Manchester, Malta and Barbados)

- What did ships look like 100 years ago?

They had big masts and sails like in Pirates of the Caribbean (look at slide 30 for an example)

Slide 30 - This photograph show old ships in Cardiff Docks.

- In the past, people said that you could walk across Cardiff Docks without getting wet. How do you think they did this?

The ships were all so close together that you could just walk straight over one ship and on to another.

- What's in the water at Cardiff Bay now?

There are more modern boats, yachts, pleasure boats, speedboats, jet skis, a water taxi and some remains of the past such as the old mooring posts (known as dolphins)

Plenary ideas:

- Before we looked at the documents we wrote down some ideas on the board about what we think happened in Cardiff Docks in the past. Were we right? Could we add anything else to the list on the board?
- Tell me one new thing you have learnt today
- Sum up what we have learnt in one sentence

Possible activities based on this workshop:

- Make a list of all the ways working in a mine was dangerous. What could you do to try and make it safer?
- Use your 5 senses (touch, taste, smell, sight and sound) to describe what it would have been like to live near a coal mine.
- Use slides 28 – 30 to colour in a blank map showing the places people came from to work at Cardiff Docks.
- Write a postcard to a friend imagining you work on a ship in Cardiff Docks. What is it like? What is your job? Where do you travel and what do you see?