



Source 3

Task

3a In what ways does Mr. Wood's statement support Lord Ashley's opinions? See Source 2

3b Why do the mine owners prefer to employ women in the mines according to Mr. Sadler?

3c In your opinion, which of these two statements presents the strongest case against women working in the mines?



Witness statements included in Lord Ashley's 1842 report. The first statement is made by Mr. Wood and the second is made by Mr. Sadler.

"I strongly disapprove of females being in pits; the female character is totally destroyed by it; their habits and feelings are altogether different; they can neither discharge the duty of wives nor mothers. I see the greatest difference in the homes of those colliers whose wives do not go into the pits."

"One reason why women are used so frequently in the coal-pits is, that a girl of twenty will work for 2s. a day, or less, and a man of that age would want 3s. 6d. It makes little difference to the coal-master; he pays the same whoever does the work. Some would say he got his coal cheaper, but I am not of that opinion; the only difference is, that the collier can spend 1s. to 1s. 6d. more at the alehouse."

(PRO ref: ZHC 2/79, p.1338)