



Source 4

Task

4a What are the people wearing so that they can drag the tubs of coal? Describe how this could be uncomfortable or cause injury.

4b Many children died in the mines whilst doing this work. In what ways would this method of moving coal have been dangerous? How could fatal accidents have been caused using this method?

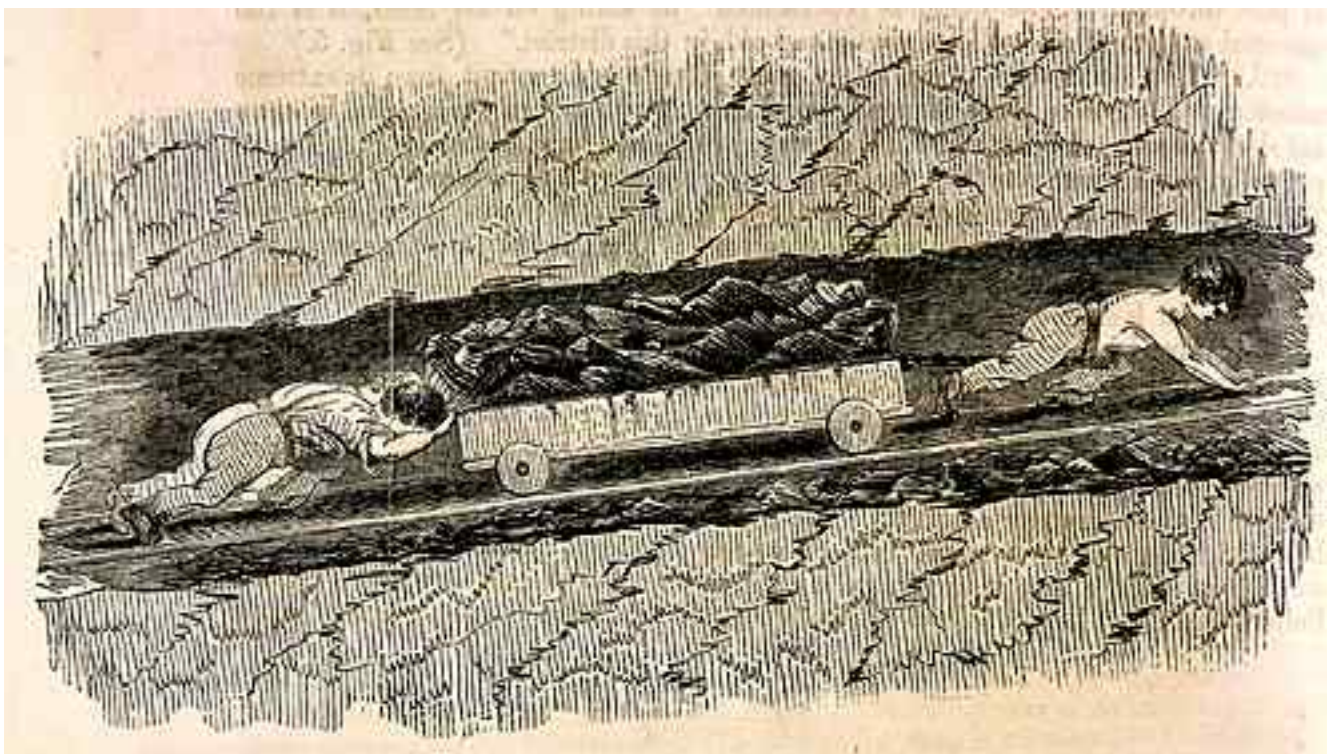
4c Many of these children worked from 6 in the morning to 8 in the evening with up to one and a half hours break. Work out how many hours of work this was. Compare it to your school day, or the hours you might do in a job.

VICTORIAN BRITAIN

An Industrial Nation?

Source 4

These are prints of young persons included in Lord Ashley's report on children in mining from 1842. Although children under ten and all women and girls were banned from working underground as a result of the report, boys over ten continued to be used underground. The conditions shown in the drawings would still have existed during the time of the Great Exhibition. They show how young persons were used to move the coal to the surface.





(PRO ref: ZHC 2/79)

These are witness excerpts from the report. They are interviews with young people working in the mines. Read them and think about how different children's lives were in the 19th century.

No. 309. George Bentley.

Is eight years old. Has worked a year; drives between; has 1s. per day. He lives at South Normanton, and has a mile and a half to walk to the pit. He breakfasts before he leaves home. Goes down at half-past six to eight, one hour dinner; three-quarter days half-past six to seven; half days half-past six to half-past three or four, no dinner-hour allowed. He never works by night or Sunday. Has bread and fat for breakfast, bread, potatoes, and sometimes bacon for dinner, and bread and milk at night. He goes to the Ranters' Sunday-school at Normanton, learns a b, ab.

This boy appears half-starved: he, as well as three others, are B B. I visited their homes: it and the boys were the most wretched I witnessed.



HALIFAX UNION HOUSE.

No. 64. *William Hollingsworth*, aged 13. June 9 :

I have no father or mother ; my father was a shoemaker and has been dead five years, and my mother eleven ; I lived with my sister at Crossfield six months after and rather better, and then went to the old workhouse ; I was then apprenticed by the overseers of the parish of Halifax to Joseph Morton, the brickmaker, in the township of Southowram, where I remained two years, when he died, and I came here for a little while. Jonathan Oldfield, a collier, living at Bradshaw-lane, made application to the Board of Guardians for an apprentice ; I was willing to work for him or anybody else, and went with him by consent of the Board on trial for a month ; if I had remained with him I should have been bound until I was 21 ; I stayed with him five days ; he gave me porridge for breakfast at half-past five, and then I went with his other *two* apprentices, with whom I slept, to the pit ; each of us took a cake and a half for our dinners ; we had no time to stop to eat it, but took it as we hurried ; the first night I worked in the pit, which was last Thursday [the 3rd inst.], we remained until ten o'clock at night, and then all three came away together ; the second night [Friday] we stopped until nine, third night until half-past eight, and on the Monday until a quarter to eight ; we had nothing during the whole of those days but the cake and half each, and nothing to drink ; there was no water that we could get in the pit's bottom, and they would not allow us to go up to drink ; I was very thirsty at times ; my master never beat me, but he cursed enough at me because I was not sharp enough with the corves. I hurried without shoes one day, but was obliged to put them on again because the ground hurt my feet ; the other apprentices told me that they worked until 10 and 11 o'clock at night regular. It was Mr. Joseph Stocks's Royd Pit that I worked in ; I ran away from him Tuesday [yesterday] morning because he worked me so late ; I was so tired when I got home to his house that I did not think I could stand it ; after I left him I made application to come into the workhouse again ; I would rather work if I had a good master ; I have been to day-school and Sunday-school, and can read and write very well ; I heard my master say last Sunday to another man who looks after his cow, that the four getters and three hurriers that he employs earns every day 14s. ; one of his apprentices is a getter, the other is a hurrier ; besides them he has three other getters.

(Signed)

WILLIAM HOLLINGSWORTH.

I have heard the foregoing evidence of William Hollingsworth read over, and from my knowledge of the lad believe it to be strictly true.

(Signed)

W. DYER,
Master of Union House.



No. 75. *Esther Craven*, aged 14 :

I have been hurrier for Jos. Ibbotson all the time of five years; I am not apprenticed to him; Mr. Foster always pays me my wages, if he did not I should not get it from Ibbotson, sometimes because he lates for a week, and would want the money for his sel'; I like working in pit very well; I would rather be here in pit than do nought else; I like it better than nursing or any other kind of work; I can hem and sew, and mend my stockings—if I did not, there would be nobody else to do it for me, mother has been dead two years; I have one brother a hurrier, and a sister a hurrier, and a little one at home; father is a weaver, he weaves a piece in nine days; I come here to work at seven, sometimes afore, never much after; I get my breakfast before I come, and bring my dinner with me, a piece of cake; when I go home I get milk and meal, sometimes potatoes; I do not know what time I go home; sometimes at three, four, five, and six; I hurry in trousers bare-legged, and a pair of old stays; the men never meddle with us, Joseph Ibbotson often *brays* [beats] us; he was beating my sister when you come down—never a lad gets beaten by anybody else but him; the other men scolds him for it; I many a time hurt my feet by hurrying; I get all the skin off my leg sometimes by the stones in the gate, and with the rail-ends when they are loose; a pick struck me once and broke my finger; I cannot read or write; I never go much to Sunday-school, because I have no clothes fit to go in; I had a very bad mother—she used to go flitting very much [left home], and would not stop with my father, that obliged me to come into pit to work with my sister for his support; I came to pit of my own accord; mother came after me to pit's mouth when I was going down, with a whip, but I was as keen as mustard, and got out of her way; I have rued many a time afore now for coming, but I do not now, because I have got used to it; I never think nought about being brayed a bit by the getters.

No. 8. *John Bennett*, aged 14. Examined February 25 :

I first began to work down here about five years ago, drawing slack and coals. We have no horses down here. I cannot read or write. I go to Sunday-school at Pitshills (the Primitives); I never went to day-school. I start from home to come to work at half-past five in the morning, and bring my breakfast with me; I leave off work at six o'clock; half an hour is allowed for breakfast, and one hour for dinner; I always get my time. My wages are 10s. a-week; I am in regular work, very near. My father is a banksman; mother stops at home. I have seven brothers and sisters; two of us work; the others are either out to service, married, or at home. My father's wages are about a pound a week. Before I came to Delph to work I run moulds at Eli Hawley's, at Burslem, for nearly 12 months; at Enrick Wood's two years running moulds and turning jiggers. If I had the same wages in the pot-works I would rather work there running moulds, because I should be out of danger. I have seen men as was loike to be killed by coal and stone falling upon them. I have no fear of coming up and going down. I have never seen any fire-damps. I have enough tea and bread and butter, and tatees and bacon to eat; and I have better clothes at home. The people down here never lay on me.