



CARBIDE LAMPS

People first used carbide lamps on carriages. Miners, farmers, and hunters also used them because they didn't weigh very much and they made a very bright light.

Miners liked the carbide lamp for four reasons. First, they could put it on their hat. Second, they didn't make carbon monoxide which is a poisonous gas. Third, the lamps used less oxygen in the mines than candles. Fourth, they were much lighter than oil lamps.

Miners didn't like the carbide lamp for two reasons. First, the miners had to put more fuel in the lamps in the middle of the day. That meant they lost time they could have been working in the mine. They didn't like that. Second, they had to unclog the burners on the lamp a lot. That also meant more time lost at work.

What do you think the next big idea for lighting mines was? It was flashlights and electric lamps.