



MINERS' CANDLESTICKS

Mining is hard work. Miners work under the ground where there is no light. They have to provide their own light so they can work. What if there were no flashlights or electricity in the mine? What would you use to see in the dark?

For a long time miners used candles in the mines. They used lumps of clay to stick the candles to the mine walls. When the clay dried out, the candle fell to the floor and went out. Miners in the West found another answer. They took a long spike and made a loop at one end. They attached the candle in the middle and sharpened the other end. They could jam the sharp end into the mine wall and it would stay.

These miners' candlesticks were so popular that factories began to produce hundreds of them. Miners nicknamed these candlesticks, "Sticking Tommies." Carbide lamps replaced candles in the mines about 1914, and "Sticking Tommies" were no longer needed.