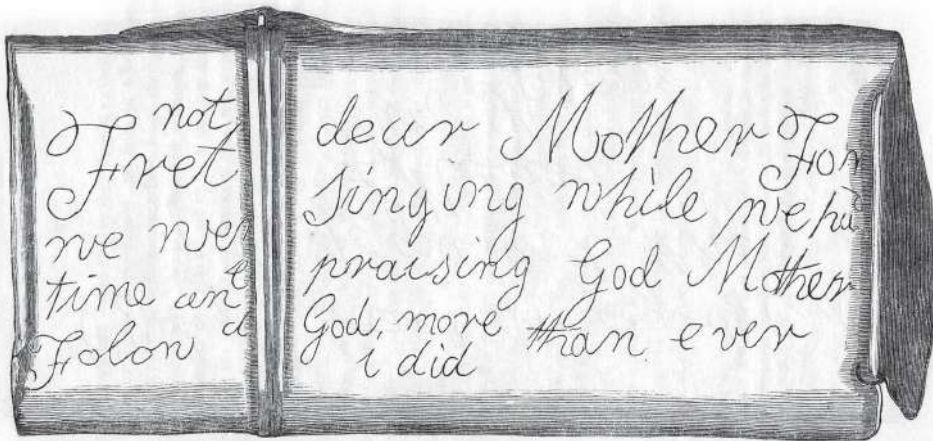


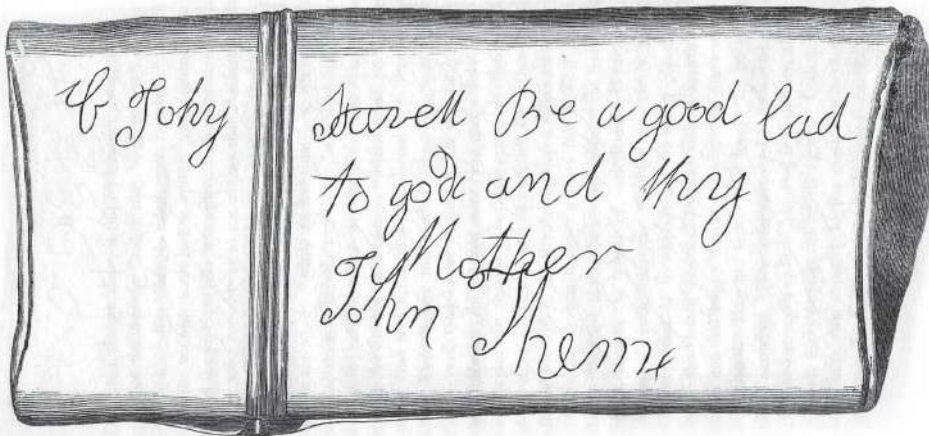
Heaton Disaster 5Ws

A dreadful mining accident occurred in one of the local mines in the North East of England. The following was recorded in the report made about the disaster. "In a nail-chest was discovered the body of one of the lesser boys...a tin candle-box, in the pocket of...William Thew, on which was scratched a very touching letter to his widowed mother:



"Fret not, dear mother, for we were singing while we had time, and praising God. Mother, follow God more than ever I did"

And then on the other side, which, it is supposed, must have been dictated by his father, as it bears his signature, though he could not write:



"If Johnny is saved, be a good lad to God, and thy mother John Thew "

TASK

Carefully read the captions provided. Working either individually or in twos try to complete as much of the 5ws activity as you can. As a group compare answers. As a group come up with 3 laws you would pass to make sure this disaster never happened again.

1.

2.

3.

Cut out the cards and organise them into columns representing each of the five Ws: who, what, where, why and when.



Who

What

Where

Why

When



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Historic England



On May 3rd 1815 a dreadful accident took place in Heaton Main Colliery, near Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

At about half-past four o'clock on the morning of Wednesday water broke through the coal into the north-west part of the present colliery.

Effort was immediately made to reach the spot where the men were supposed to be, from some other workings, but without success.

She readily recognised William's body by his fine auburn hair.

The water rushed in with dreadful rapidity, and flowing naturally to the lower parts of the workings, soon cut off the only means of escape.



From various difficulties, the bodies of these unfortunate men were not arrived at until upwards of nine months from the time of the accident.





Where the water had not risen to there were ten human bodies, and the carcasses of two horses found.

On the 6th of January 1816, the first human body of the sufferers was brought to bank, in a state of great decay

By this catastrophe seventy five persons (forty-one men and thirty-four boys) lost their lives, together with the whole stock of horses, which were down at the time.

They had not died from hunger, as they had killed one of the horses and had cut slices off its hind quarter...They had likewise an abundant supply of spring water.



The exhaustion of the atmospheric air by the influx of water bringing with its foul air, was not doubt the cause of death, probably in a day or two at the most.



William Thew was the second son of John and Elizabeth Thew, and was seventeen years of age at the time of the catastrophe. His father, and an elder brother, aged twenty, named George, perished with him.