

Improvements to safety in the coal mines

Source A:

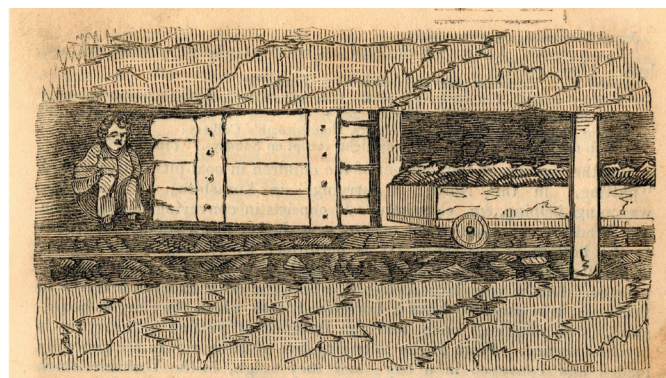
Message from a boy to his mother, engraved onto a tin candle-box when he was trapped in a flooded mine in Newcastle in 1815

Reference: CLLOC-CLARKE 1853-A Letter From the Dead to the Living-The Letter



Source B: Illustration of Trapper boy and coal cart

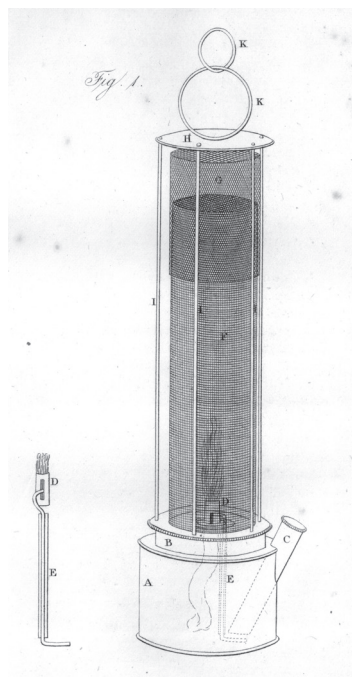
Reference: Reference: 19 C 1801-1850 Coll 331 3822 con - the condition and treatment - illustration page 41



Source C:

Diagram of a miner's safety lamp known as the Davy Lamp

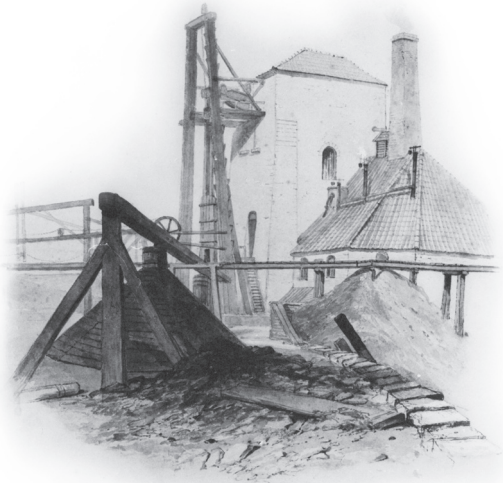
Reference: Rare Books, RB942.8 TYN (VI)2



Source D:

Illustration of the Friar's Goose a Steam Pumping Engine

Reference: Hair Thomas Illustrations, TH/1/38.



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<http://archivesalive.ncl.ac.uk>

<https://historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/education>

Activities

The cards below are all muddled up. Cut them all out.

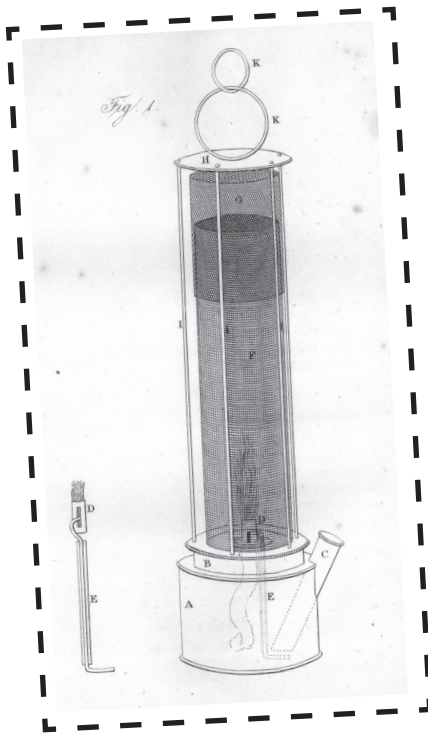
Next, sort them out into 3 piles:

a) Problems

b) Improvements

c) Pictures

Now match each problem to an improvement that helped to tackle this problem and to the relevant picture. Then stick them into your exercise book.



The Mines Act of 1842 banned children under 10 years old from working in the mines.

Miners sometimes got trapped underground as a result of flooding and roof collapses.

Accidents involving children working in the mines were common. Sometimes they were crushed by the carts which were used to transport the coal underground.



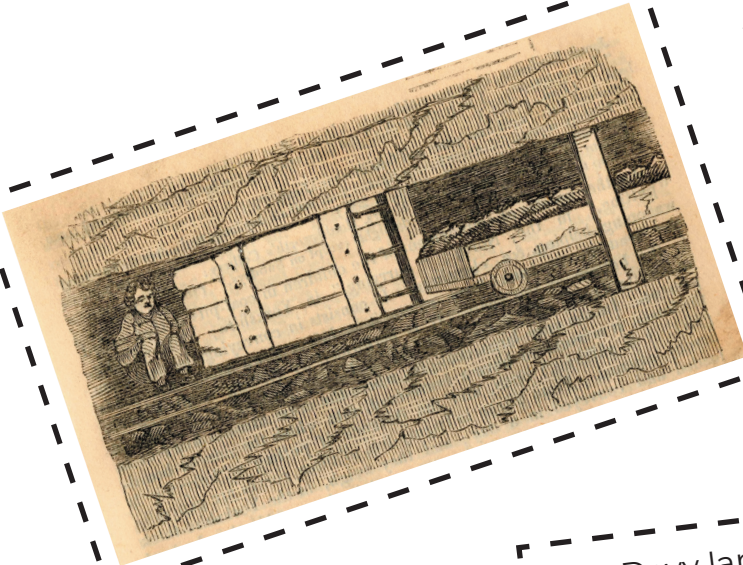
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The 1862 Prohibition of Single Shaft Mines Act said that all mines had to have at least 2 shafts so that if one was cut off there was another means of escape.

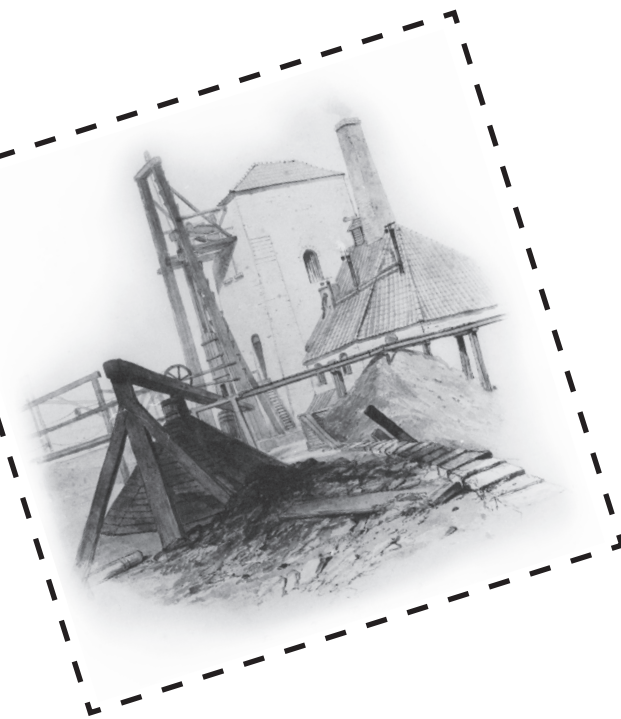
Deep mines frequently flooded and sometimes miners drowned.



The Davy lamp, a miner's safety lamp with a metal gauze around the flame, prevented the flame igniting the gas in the mines.



Steam pumps were used to pump water out of mines.



A dangerous gas called 'fire-damp' built up in the mines. This could be ignited by candles causing explosions.