

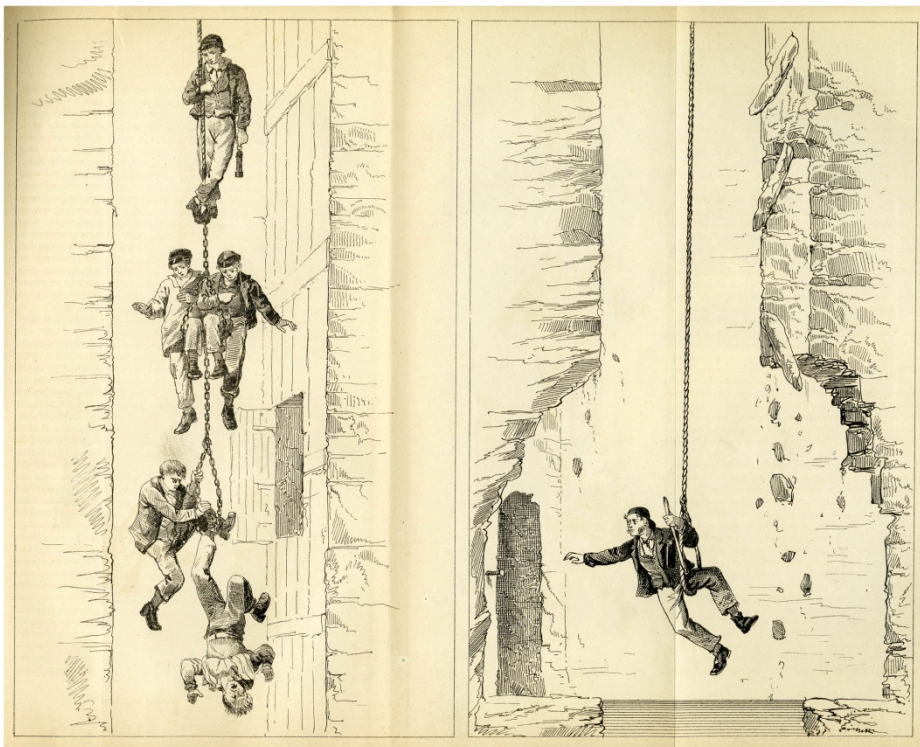
Mining - Children in the Mines – Going down the Mine

Source 1

“That man must have strong nerves who for the first time descends a deep shaft, probably much deeper than St Paul’s Cathedral is high, without some degree of uncomfortable sensation. To a young child it is often cruelly frightful. It is difficult to describe the impression of dark confinement and damp discomfort conveyed by a colliery, at first sight. The springs which generally ooze through the best-cased shafts, trickle down its sides, and keep up a perpetual drizzle below. The chamber or area at the bottom of the shaft is almost always sloppy and muddy, and the escape from it consists in a labyrinth of black passages, often not above four feet square, and seldom exceeding five by six.”

Mr Symons’ report, *Children in mines and collieries*, 1839 p58-59

Source 2



A Treatise on the ventilation of coal mines – illustration, RB 942 8 TYN, 1868, p32

Activities

1. Carefully read source 1. Imagine you were going down a mine for the first time. **In no more than 50 words describe what you would see and feel.**
2. Study source 2. **Explain why it was dangerous descending into a mine.**