

How did mining shape the North East we know today?

Vocabulary

Chronology – the arrangement of events or dates in the order of their occurrence.

Social history – the history of ordinary people and their impact on society, government and culture.

Era – a long period in history.

Mining – the process of mining substances out of the ground. Any material that cannot be grown must be mined. Mining things from the ground is called *extraction*. Mining can include extraction of metals and minerals, like coal, diamond, gold, silver, platinum, copper, tin and iron.

Prosperity – a state of being wealthy and successful.

International – existing or occurring between nations.

Economy – the state of a country or region in terms of the production and consumption of goods and services and the supply of money.

Trade – the action of buying and selling goods and services.

Industrialisation – the development of industries in a region or country.

Victorian – In the history of the United Kingdom, the Victorian era was the period of Queen Victoria's reign, from 20 June 1837 until her death on 22 January 1901. The era followed the Georgian period and preceded the Edwardian period.

Poverty – a state or condition in which a person or community lacks the financial resources and essentials for a minimum standard of living.

Region – an area, especially part of a country or the world having definable characteristics but not always fixed boundaries.

For thousands of years, coal has been an essential fuel across the world. Most of the coal that people used was mined very close to the surface. Charcoal was also used during these early years. Charcoal is produced by burning wood and was a valuable resource in Britain for a long time.

Coal was once the lifeblood industry and a key part of the life in the **North East of England**. Coal was king, and it fuelled industries like steel and heavy engineering.

While many of the mines in our region now cease to exist, there are many statues that celebrate our **mining heritage**. The influence of mining in the North East will never be forgotten.



The North East's mining and industrial heritage have shaped our region's identity – influencing everything from our attitudes, language, and even our sense of humour. Almost every aspect of local life revolved around collieries, close-knit communities were made with their own social clubs and miners' galas and towns like Seaham Harbour, Easington Village, Bedlington and Ashington owed their existence to coal. But the mining and industrial profession could be dangerous, with hundreds of innocent lives lost due to disasters such as the Montagu Pit Disaster, Scotswood, when 38 young men and boys tragically died due to flooding in a pit.

