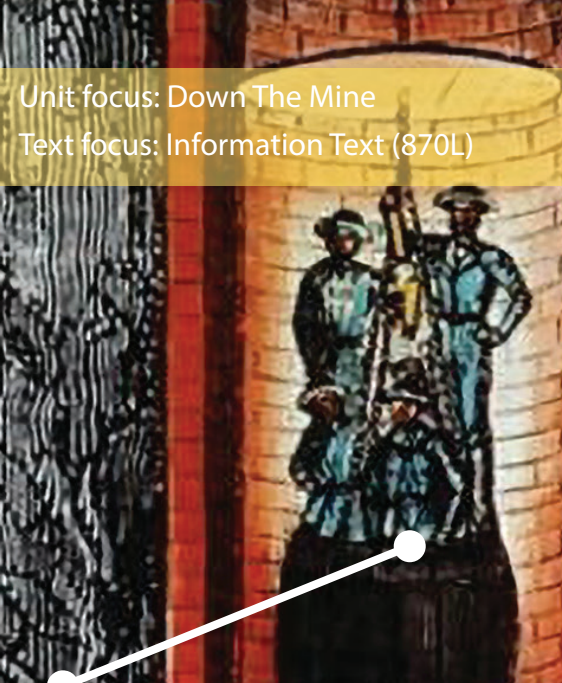
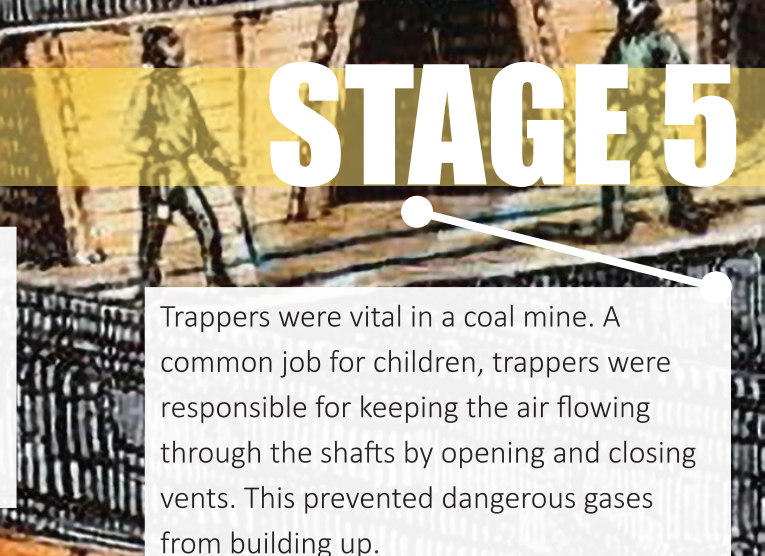


A Victorian Mine

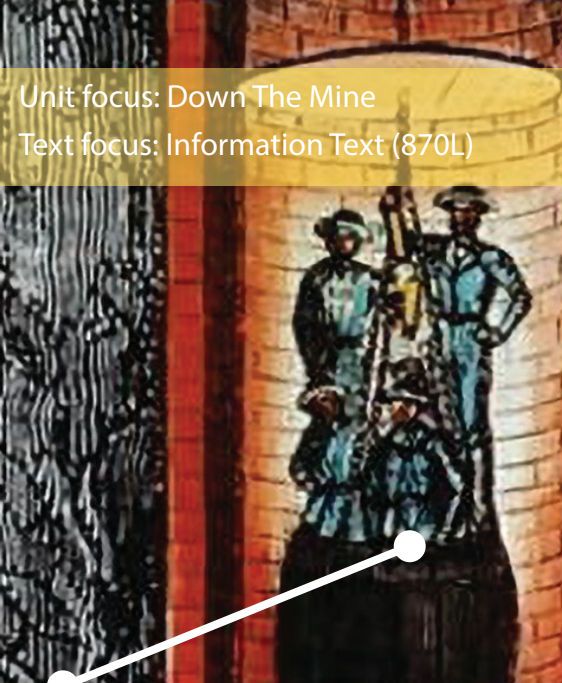
STAGE 5




During the Industrial Revolution, Britain needed greater amounts of coal. The coal was used to power the factories that sprouted across the landscape, and to provide energy for the nation. Unfortunately, lots of the jobs were in tight spaces, places that children were perfect for working in. Children as young as five were sent down the mines to perform a myriad of jobs.



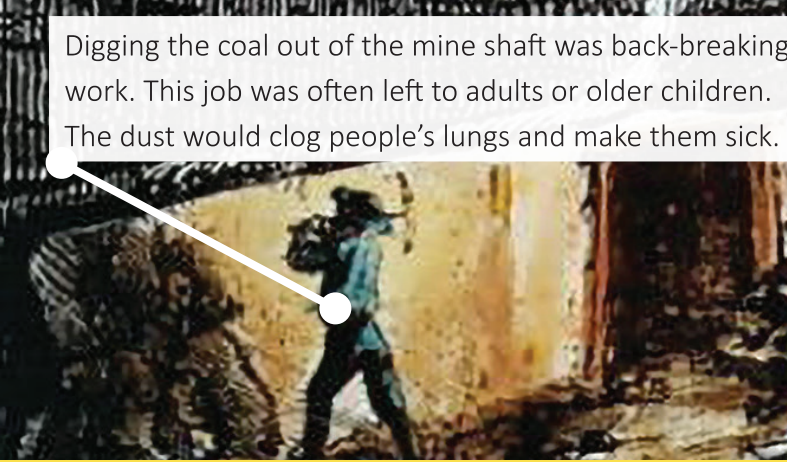
Trappers were vital in a coal mine. A common job for children, trappers were responsible for keeping the air flowing through the shafts by opening and closing vents. This prevented dangerous gases from building up.




The entrance to lots of mines was via a vertical well. Children and adults would hang on to a bucket or platform and be lowered down into the pit. To prevent unnecessary trips, they weren't allowed out until their shift was over. Many people slipped during the journey and fell to their death.



Once coal had been hacked out of the shaft, it needed to be carted to the surface. Drawers were responsible for pushing heavy carts of coal either to the entrance of the mine or to the well to the surface. The carts were extremely heavy and often crushed the children who were trying to push them.



Digging the coal out of the mine shaft was back-breaking work. This job was often left to adults or older children. The dust would clog people's lungs and make them sick.



Sometimes, the seam of coal went underneath hard rock or bad quality coal. If this happened, the miners had to **undermine**, which meant digging a smaller tunnel into the wall. Children were often used for this as they were smaller. Lots of these smaller tunnels collapsed, killing anybody trapped underneath them.

INFERENCE FOCUS

1. Why were children sent to work in the mines?
2. Most people didn't want to work in the mines. Why do you think this was?
3. Why was it important that people only went back up the well when their shift was over?
4. Why were trappers considered vital?
5. Why was it important that factories had so much coal?

VIPERS QUESTIONS

S Write a summary describing **undermining**. Include information about what it was, why it was needed and what made it dangerous.

R Why was the dust in a mine dangerous?

V Which word give you the image of factories growing like flowers?

V Find a word that is a synonym for **many**.

R Which job required children to push heavy loads?

Answers:

1. They were small and suited to the small spaces
2. They were very dangerous
3. The trips were dangerous, by restricting how many people made, they were less likely to have an accident/it took time for people to get up and down and they didn't want to waste the time
4. If the dangerous gasses built up, people would die
5. They needed the coal to keep producing the products that the industrial revolution relied on

S: Look for evidence of understanding the undermining section of the text

R: It clogged people's lungs and made them sick

V: Sprouting

V: Myriad

R: Drawer