

Wrexham Miners Project

RESOURCE PACK



Foreword

It has been a pleasure to work in collaboration with the Wrexham Miners' Project on production of this learning resource pack for schools. Staff from across the school have outlined learning opportunities linked to the Curriculum for Wales which can help pupils to learn about the Gresford Mining Disaster and the role of the Miners' Rescue Centre within our Wrexham community.

The activities have been broken down into Early Years, Year 1 and 2, Year 3 and 4 and Year 5 and 6 and deliberate space has been left around each section for teachers to add their own ideas, notes and reflections to make this a truly co-constructed document for the whole of Wrexham.

We plan to regularly review, update and revise the document and therefore would welcome your feedback. Please do share this with the team at the Miners' Rescue Centre from which point we can incorporate this into subsequent versions of the document.

Best wishes, Richard

Miners Rescue Station

Our Miners Rescue Station (MRS) was officially opened in Wrexham on 1st November 1913 as a venue to train selected personnel how to rescue their fellow coalminers from underground accidents. These trained men formed Mines Rescue Teams at each of the numerous coal mines across the whole of the North East Wales Coalfield, which stretched from near Prestatyn in the north, through Wrexham, and as far south as Oswestry.

This physically demanding training continued until 1986, when Bersham Colliery finally closed. The training was in a purpose-built smoke-chamber within the MRS, which simulated the conditions they would likely encounter when called upon. These specialist rescue teams helped during several disasters, including the harrowing 1966 Aberfan Disaster in South Wales and during the local Gresford Colliery Disaster of 1934, which cast a long and dark shadow over the local community, and is still remembered today.

Once the MRS was vacated by the National Coal Board, the local Fire Brigade took it over, before it was eventually abandoned to become derelict and partially demolished. Thankfully, in 2014, George Powell bought the now Listed Building with the intention of saving it from destruction and to develop it as a venue for social use by the local community.

The Wrexham Miners Project is the charitable organisation now responsible for the MRS and for providing its core services and activities from this thriving hub. However, behind its red-brick façade is a building in urgent need of repair and restoration. This project will cost almost £2 million to deliver, and will eventually include the creation of a Coal Mining Museum to showcase the importance of the coal industry in the past and why it has now become essential we significantly reduce the burning of all fossil fuels for the sake of your futures and all those who inhabit planet Earth.

We hope you will revisit the MRS several times as you and it grow, change and develop. Our aim is to create strong memories of the building and an understanding of the importance of the coal mining industry to the region. Hopefully, this will help you understand the conditions and hardships our relatives endured but, more importantly, how they developed strong communal bonds as a consequence of all the challenges they faced.

Early Years

- · Map Google Maps: where the mine was, where the memorial is.
- ·What is a miner? What do they do? Explore a miner's job role, clothing, 'their day', tools; look at real life artefacts.
- · What is coal? Where does it come from?



· How were the mining animals looked after? · Prayers ·Comparison of 'then' and 'now' if the disaster happened today. · What is coal? What is a coal mine? Years 1/2 ·Where is Gresford? > Digimaps > Historical Mapping · Fossil fuels: what impact does coal have on the environment? · Who worked in a coal mine? HUMANITIES & **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** -+ ×= ·Timelines. · Diary of a coal miner. · How deep is the coal mine? · Poems. · Mapping distances from/to house/school. ·'Breaking News' reporting on the day (*Welsh) · Questionnaire to relatives of miners. ·Weight of coal. LANGUAGE, LITERACY **NUMERACY** ¢ COMMUNICATION · Artefacts for observational drawing. • Enquiry: what is coal? How is it formed? ·Levers and pulleys. ·Hot seating. · Adobe Spark: video factfile ·Re-enacting. SCIENCE **EXPRESSIVE ARTS** ·Light and dark: eyes · Mining songs. ·Sketching of miners lamp/wheel using charcoal/chalk different media. · Big wheel construction. · Painting. ·Video news report. HEALTH & WELLBEING

- · Discussion of emotions (*Welsh)
- ·Outdoor 'Big Art' of Gresford Mining Wheel.
- ·What is in a miner's packed lunch?
- · Forest School: combustion of wood/coal.

Years 3/4

- · Plotting locations on a map using Digimaps.
- · Location of miners' homes distance travelled.
- · Comparisons to other mines around the world.
- ·Lifestyle then v now.
- · Artefacts: primary/secondary sources of evidence.
- ·Who was ruling the country?
- · How was it reported in the press?
- ·Who offered help?
- ·Where did the coal go?
- ·Local people telling their stories.
- ·Visit to Wrexham museum.
- ·Animals down the mine.



MATHS & NUMERACY

- · Facts and figures of the day.
- ·Timelines of the day.
- ·'When in history?' timeline.
- · Weight of coal and equipment.
- ·Length, perimeter, area of coal seams.

LANGUAGE, LITERACY ¿ COMMUNICATION

SCIENCE &

TECHNOLOGY

- ·Information leaflets.
- · Drama retelling the story.
- · Newspaper stories.
- · Diary writing.
- · Debate: miners v owners
- · Reading comprehension.
- · Poems.



· Prayers for miners. **RELIGIOUS** · Religion of miners at the time. **EDUCATION**



HEALTH & WELLBEING

- ·Safety of miners.
- · Diet.
- · Effect of gas/dust on the body.
- · Exercise in the way of a miner's life.
- ·Orienteering.
- · Welfare of miners: working conditions.
- · Lifestyle then v now.



EXPRESSIVE ARTS

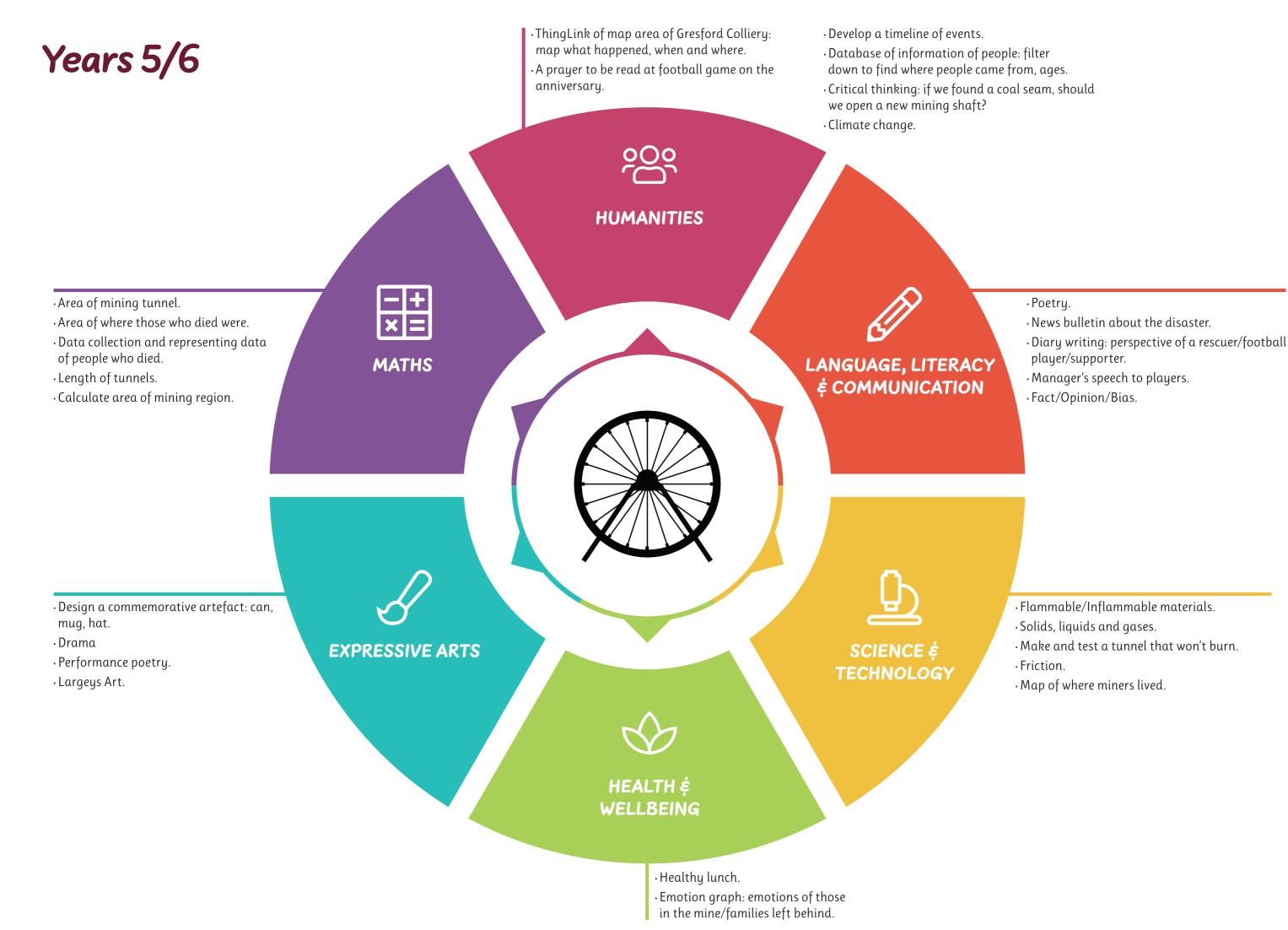
- WELSH

·Welsh songs.

·Statistics of miners - digitally.

- ·Light and dark.
- · Gases, pollution.
- ·Creating a warning system flow diagram.
- · How is coal formed? 'What is under our feet'
- · Make a big mining wheel using Lego/Minecraft.
- · Database of miners info.

- · Pencil sketches of miner's lamps; lumps of coal.
- ·Charcoal art of miners.
- · Miners songs.
- · Drama: news report, acting out the day.
- · Gresford artwork in church as inspiration.
- ·Using the mining wheel as inspiration for art pop art.
- ·Create a loan





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