

UNIT II: THE GOLDEN AGE (1897 - 1918)

Topic: Coal Mining Industry

Lesson 21: The Iowa Coal Mine

Objectives:

1. Students will become aware of the major methods for coal extraction.
2. Students will compare coal mining methods of the late 1800s and early 1900s with methods of today.

Materials:

Transparency: Iowa County Map (see Lesson 2)

Student access to *Coal Mining in Iowa*

Student access to *A Tour Through an Albia Coal Company Mine*

Resources for researching coal mining

Activities:

1. Distribute copies of *Coal Mining in Iowa*. Read the section under the question, "What was it like inside a coal mine?" Emphasize the distinction between the four main methods of extracting coal and the advantages of each.
2. Provide students with access to *A Tour Through An Albia Coal Company Mine*. Introduce the pamphlet as a recounting of a tour for a history of Monroe County in 1878. Using the transparency of Iowa counties, locate Monroe County.
3. Read and discuss the account of the tour. Compare the description of the mine with figure 2, emphasizing the structure of the room-and-pillar mine.
4. As a follow-up to this discussion, suggest the following questions for independent research:
 - a. What coal mining operations currently are going on in the state? Other minerals?
 - b. How did the methods of coal mining a hundred years ago compare with methods today? How are tools different today?
 - c. What effect has mining had on the environment in the past? What is being done today?
5. Provide time for students to share the results of their research.

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