An Old Coal Mining Town

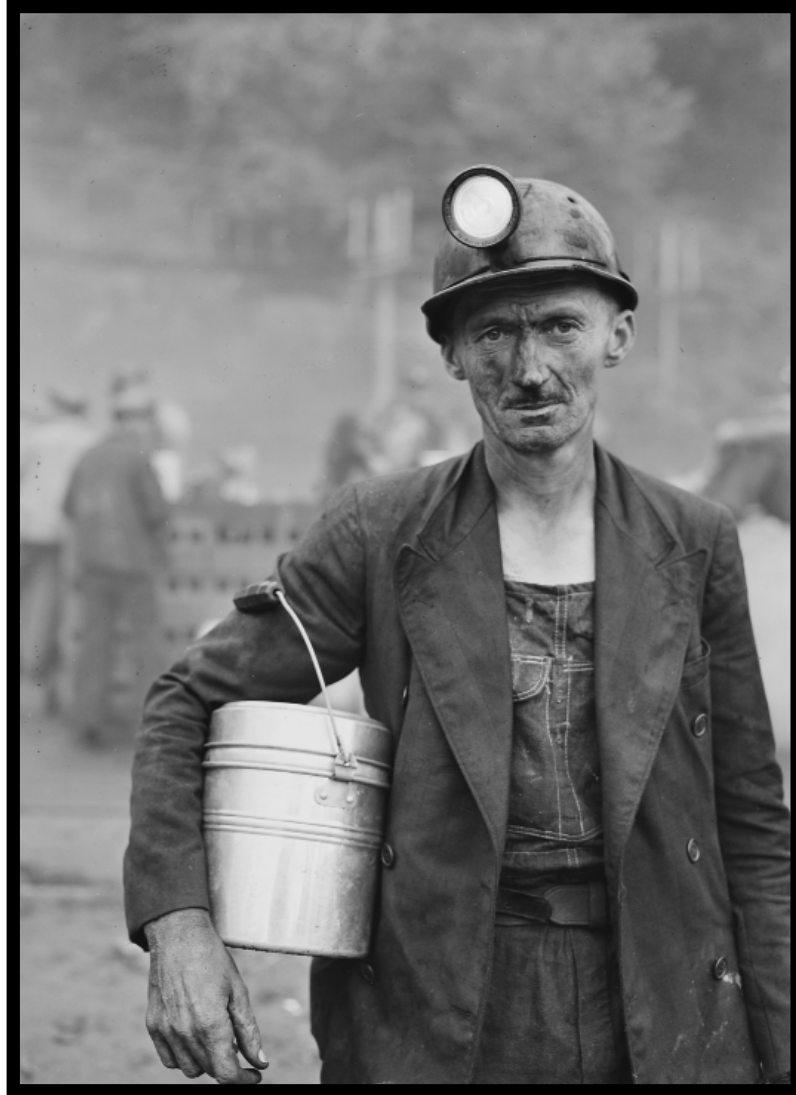## Level H/I

Written and Illustrated by Travis Schaeffer

Simon is riding on a train. He is traveling across Pennsylvania. The train stops in an old coal mining town. Simon walks to a museum in town. Simon learns about how they mined coal in the past.

A **coal mine** is underground.
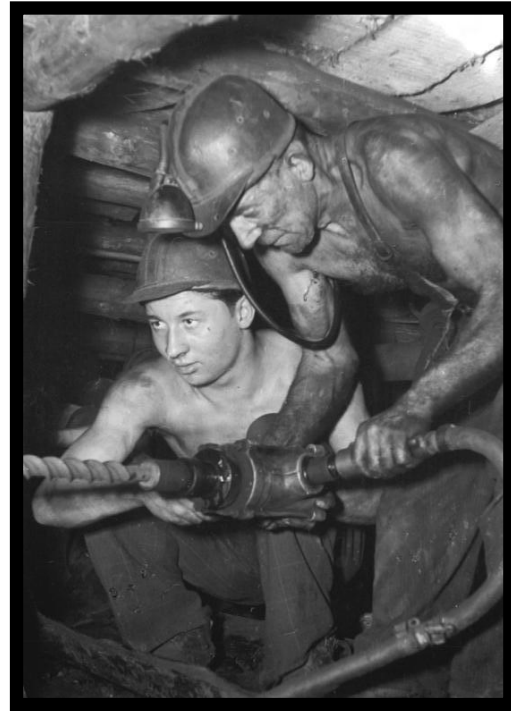
People dug tunnels into the ground.

People gathered **coal** from the

mines. People that worked in coal
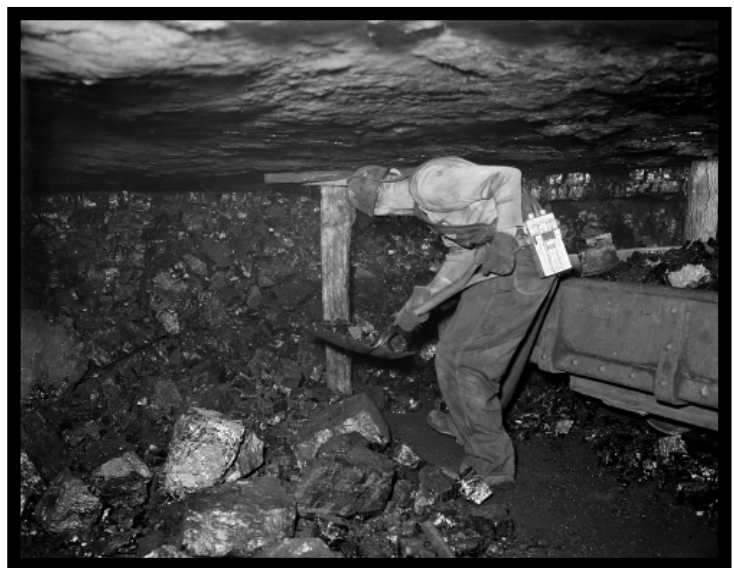
mines were called **coal miners**.

Simon sees an old photo of a coal miner. The miner is wearing a hat. Simon sees something on the front of the hat. What is on the hat?

Next to the photo is an old coal miner hat. It is the same hat in the photo. The hat has a light on it. Coal mines were very dark. Coal miners needed the light to work in the dark.

Simon sees more old photos.

They show miners using different

tools to dig for coal. What tools are

the miners using

to dig for coal?

DRILL

PICKAXE

SHOVEL

Next to the photo are old tools. They are the same tools in the photos! Simon sees a **pickaxe**, a shovel and a drill. Coal miners used these tools to dig for coal.

Simon sees another old

photo. It shows a miner pouring

a black powder into a tube.
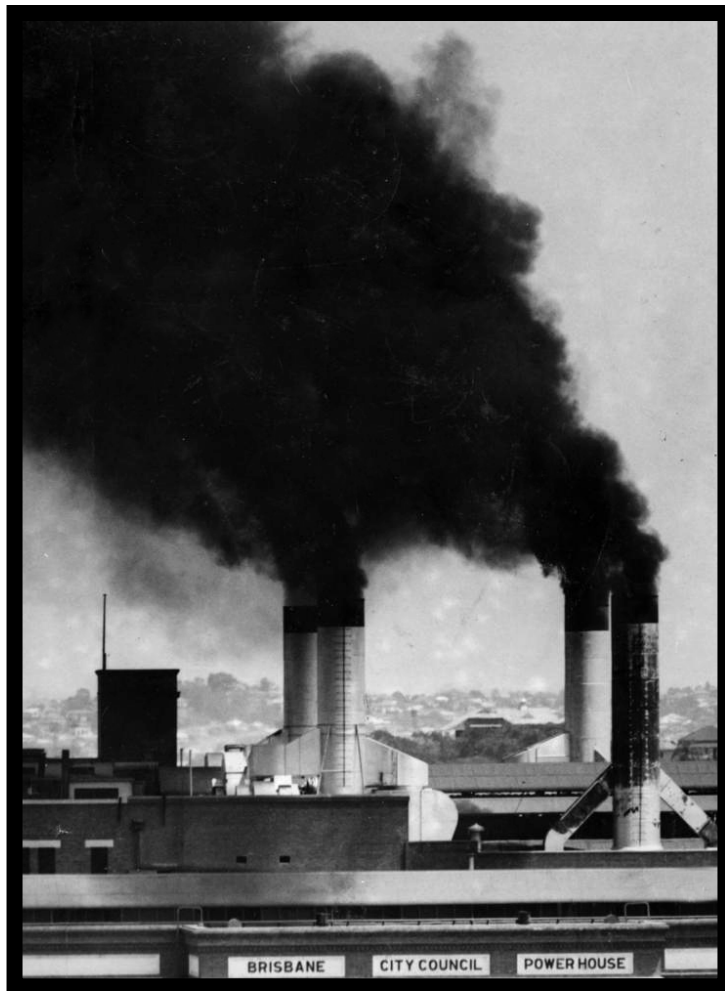
What is the coal miner making?

Next to the photo is a jar of black powder. It is the same black powder in the photo! A coal miner used black powder to make an explosion.

Simon sees another old photo.

It shows a miner moving coal out

of the the mine. What was used to

carry coal out of the mine?

Next to the photo is a large cart. It is like the one in the photo! It is called a **coal cart**. It was used to move coal out of the mine. The coal cart moved on rails.

The energy from burning coal gives off heat. Burning coal is dirty. It gives off black smoke. It is not good for the environment.

Today, we dig for coal with big machines. Coal is used to make **electricity**. People can use electricity to heat their homes. Coal is a **non-renewable resource**. It means we cannot make more of it.

Simon leaves the museum.

Simon sees an old coal mine

in town. It is closed! Many

old coal mines have closed.

Simon hears the train whistle. The train is ready to leave. He gets back on the train. Simon leaves the old coal mining town.
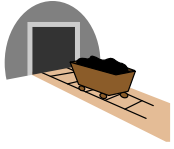
An Old Coal Mining Town

ride	mining / dig	underground	Simon	train	Pennsylvania	coal
mine	gather	old	museum	mine	coal miner	photo
see	wear	dark	hat	light	tool	pickaxe
pour	make	black	shovel	drill	black powder	explosion
carry	burn		coal cart	energy	smoke	electricity

Leveled Book, *An Old Coal Mining Town*, Level H/I

Glossary

coal mine - a place where coal is found in the ground

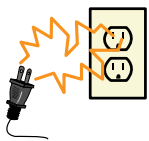**coal -** a shiny black rock found in the ground

coal miner - a person who works in a coal mine

pickaxe - a tool used to dig for coal

coal cart - a tool used to carry coal out of a mine

electricity - a form of power and energy

non-renewable resource - a natural resource that cannot be remade or grown

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