

Name: _____

Date: _____

Grade 4 Reading Comprehension Worksheet

At the Coal Mine

By Julie Haydon

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

A mine is a hole in the earth; people dig mines to look for rocks, such as coal. Some mines have tunnels that go deep under the ground. A miner is a person who works in a mine. Some coal miners work in dark tunnels, deep under the ground. A mine is a dangerous place. Miners wear special clothing to keep safe. Once, coal mining was done by hand. Miners worked in the dark for many hours. They dug the coal out with hand tools. Today, mining is done with machines. There are important safety rules in mines.

Rule 1: Miners must be able to breathe fresh air.

Rule 2: Strong beams hold up the mine roof so that it will not fall on the miners. After the coal is cut, it is taken out of the mine. A moving belt carries the coal out of the mine. Not all coal miners work under the ground. The miners dig for coal that is close to the ground. First, the soil is removed from the ground. Then, big machines scoop the coal out of the ground. At the power station, the crush coal is burnt. The burning coal heats water and makes it boil. Boiling water makes steam. The steam turns a generator. This makes electricity.

Answer each question.

1. What is a mine and where do the miners work?
2. How did the miners work in the past?
3. What are the safety rules of mines?
4. What is the modern tool of mining?
5. What does happen after the coal is cut?
6. How does the electricity make the coal?

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Answer each question.

1. What is a mine and where do the miners work?

A mine is a hole in the earth. Miners work in dark tunnels, deep under the ground.

2. How did the miners work in the past?

Miners worked in the dark for many hours. They dug the coal out with hand tools.

3. What are the safety rules of mines?

Rule 1: Miners must be able to breathe fresh air.

Rule 2: Strong beams hold up the mine roof so that it will not fall on the miners.

4. What is the modern tool of mining?

Mining is done with machines these days.

5. What does happen after the coal is cut?

After the coal is cut, it is taken out of the mine then a moving belt carries the coal out of the mine.

6. How does the electricity make with the coal?

At the power station, the crush coal is burnt. The burning coal heats water and makes it boil then the boiling water makes steam. The steam turns a generator and this makes electricity.