

History - Year 6

Autumn 2

Changes in coal mining since the 1980s

Where did all the miners go?

- A strike is where people refuse to work as a way to show that they are annoyed about their working conditions.
- Miners across Britain went on strike from 1984 – 1985.
- The miners on strike were trying to save their jobs as Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and her government were trying to close the mines down.
- The leader of the miners' strikes was called Arthur Scargill.
- A picket line is where people on strike stand with signs showing their message.
- Miners did not get paid whilst on strike. Those who went back to work were called names and sometimes attacked.
- When the coal mines eventually closed, it had a huge impact on the miners, their families and the communities where the miners lived.

Spring 2

Britain during the time of the Saxons and the Vikings

- The Vikings were people who came from Sweden, Denmark and Norway. They were brave fighters but also expert farmers.
- The first Viking attack (raid) on Britain happened in 793AD at a place called Lindisfarne.
- The Viking era in Britain began around 1200 years ago.
- Alfred the Great (a Saxon) stopped the Vikings taking over all of England.
- The Vikings settled in parts of England. The country was split into two parts, Wessex (ruled by the Saxons) and the Danelaw (ruled by the Vikings).
- The Saxons ruled England until 1066.
- When King Edward the Confessor died in 1066, three men said they should be the next king; Harold Godwinson, William Duke of Normandy and Harald Hardrada.
- At the end of 1066 William, Duke of Normandy became King of England.

Summer 2

The Second World War

- The Second World War started in 1939 and lasted until 1945. It began over 80 years ago.
- There were 3 Prime Ministers during WWII. Winston Churchill was the PM who led Britain to victory.
- The war was fought between Britain, France, America and the Soviet Union (Russia) and Germany, Italy and Japan.
- German and British aeroplanes fought in the skies over southern England in 1940. This was called the Battle of Britain.
- The spitfire was a fighter plane that was designed by Reginald Mitchell who came from Butt Lane (which is 3 miles away from Crackley Bank).
- The Germans used aeroplanes to drop bombs on British cities such as London and Manchester. This was called the Blitz.
- Children were taken away from the cities and their parents to escape the German bombs. This was called 'evacuation'.
- During the Second World War people could only get small amounts of food. This was called 'rationing'.