

# Letters and the Lamp

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## The Industrial Revolution, coal mining, and the Felling Colliery Disaster

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### Answers

1. When was the Industrial Revolution? What important things happened during the Industrial Revolution?

Around 1750-1850. Factories were built (for textiles, iron, chemicals), the steam-engine was invented (to power machinery), and canals and railways were built (to transport goods and materials for manufacturing).

2. What was coal mining like in 1812? Underline three answers: dangerous; no miners were killed; hard work; safe; miners were sometimes killed; easy work.

3. What was the name of the dangerous gas that caused the explosion at Felling Colliery?

Fire-damp (mainly composed of methane).

4. Was the explosion at Felling Colliery a large one or a small one? How do you know?

Large. Hodgson describes it as a 'tremendous explosion'. He also says that 'A slight trembling, as from an earthquake, was felt for half a mile around the workings; and the noise of the explosion, though dull, was heard to three or four miles distance'.

5. How many people were killed in the Felling Colliery Disaster? What do you think about that number?

92 men and boys. [Personal response].