

Letters and the Lamp

Who invented the lamp?

Answers

1. Did Davy and Stephenson work in the same part of the country? Where did each man work?

No. Davy worked at the Royal Institution in London, and Stephenson at Killingworth Colliery. Killingworth and London are almost 300 miles apart

2. Did Davy and Stephenson discuss their ideas with each other?

No. There is no evidence of them ever engaging directly with one another.

3. Which of these statements is true? Underline one answer: Davy and Stephenson invented their different safety lamps independently of one another; Davy and Stephenson wrote each other letters; Davy's and Stephenson's safety lamps were the same.

4. Did all of the miners prefer either Davy's or Stephenson's safety lamp, or did some prefer Davy's and some prefer Stephenson's?

Some preferred Davy's, and some preferred Stephenson's. Some think that the term 'Geordie' comes from the name used for Stephenson's safety lamps (Geordie lamps), but Davy's lamps were also in widespread use in the north-east of England.

5. Why are Davy's and Stephenson's letters important documents?

They contain lots of information (not available elsewhere) about the invention of Davy's and Stephenson's safety lamps. They also tell us lots about what Davy and Stephenson thought of each other.