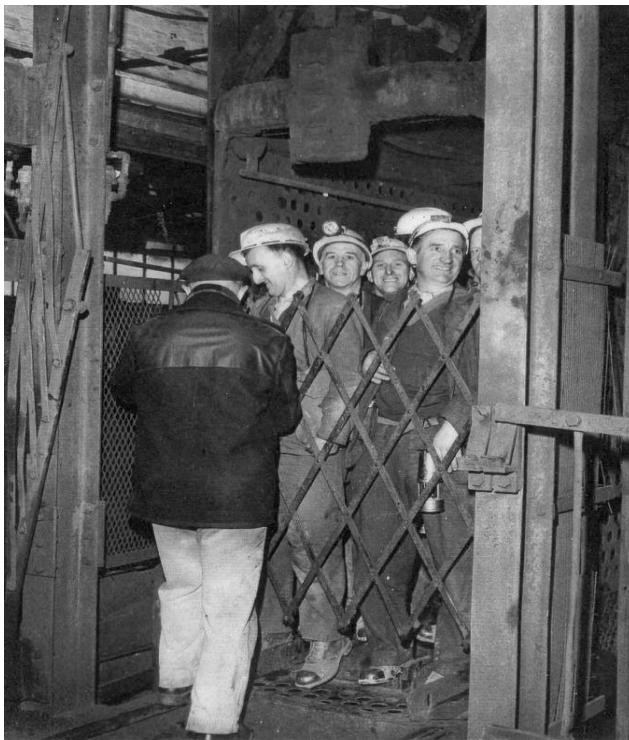


## Educational Activities for Kids at Severn Valley Country Park

### Mining Our History

Discovering the history of Severn Valley Country Park will enable visiting children to learn of the fascinating stories of how people used to live and work in the Severn Valley.

The area was once an industrial landscape shaped by sandstone quarrying and coal mining. Children will have a chance to see and learn about old mining equipment, the remains of cottages on the site, and learn about how people used to live and holiday in the area. They'll also learn about what it was like to be a coal miner and how the landscape have changed over time. This will be put into the context of regional and national history in relation to the most prominent industries and events at the time. The children will also have a chance to learn about archaeology see some of the finds from a dig which took place in 2019.



#### Duration

Up to 1.5 hours

#### Equipment

Each child will need: suitable clothing and footwear.

We will provide any other equipment including writing and recording sheets, etc.

#### Time of year

All year

#### Contact

Severn Valley Country Park, Chapel Lane,  
Alveley, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV15 6NG  
Email: [outdoor.recreation@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:outdoor.recreation@shropshire.gov.uk)  
Telephone: **01746 781192**

### Activity Content

Please note that the following pages give a general description of this activity and its links to the curriculum. We reserve the right to make modifications to the content to reflect weather conditions and safety requirements.

We will be very happy to modify and amend the activity contents to enable your children or school to meet specific objectives if required.

**More details of this activity are on the following page ....**

## Activity breakdown and links to National Curriculum

Activity	Curriculum
Housekeeping, hygiene, toilets, food, drink, First Aid, etc. Locations and maps	History: changes within living memory
Welcome children & find out if any of them have been before and what they already know about SVCP. Tell them that there used to be coal mining and sandstone quarrying in the area	History: significant historical events, people and places in their own locality
Outside the visitor centre ask the children to describe what they can see. Ask them to say what they think it might have looked like in the 1960s. Explain what the spoil heap would have looked like. Show photographs.	History: study of an aspect of history or a site dating from a period beyond 1066 that is significant in the locality
Inside the visitor centre show the children timeline which starts 310 million years ago. Explain the main parts of the history e.g. coal and sandstone forming; quarrying; mining; reclamation. Show the children the large pictures of miners' underground and the quarrymen.	English: speaking and listening  Geography: recognise and observe at a local scale
From the visitor centre, walk to the Coal tub, hydraulic lift and sandstone grindstones. Stop at the Detaching hook sculpture to talk about the miners working underground.	
Walk into the woods to show where the holiday chalets used to be. Look for the foundations in the undergrowth.	
Walk on to the remains of Wood Cottage. Tell the children about the archaeology dig which was done there in 2019 and show them some finds. Tell them about the family who lived there and crossing the river by ferry.	
Continue on the walk to the exposed coal spoil. Show the children the large photo board of the two ponds – get them to guess where it was taken from. Talk about the land reclamation and show photographs of the work.	
Continue to Potter's Loade. Tell the children that the Davies family used to live there. They also ran a ferry until the bridge was built. Ran the ferry. They used to grow lots of their own vegetables e.g. beans; also kept ducks and chickens. They stayed until the 1950s but then the spoil heaps were big, smelly and on fire! Follow the Ferryman's path.	
Stand under the bridge. Ask the children if they know why it was built? Show them the photographs of both bridges being built. Talk about the coal going over by tramway and then the aerial ropeway. Get the children to look up and imagine the ropeway above them carrying the coal.	
Walk to The Sidings and tell the children about the screens and washeries and the railway. Ask the children if they think the train still carries coal?	
Return to Visitor Centre	

See our [Teachers Guide](#) for more detailed information on curriculum

This activity was created as part of Severn Valley Lives in the Landscape project which was funded by



The Jean Jackson  
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