

Key Stage
2-3

A VIRTUAL TOUR GUIDE

BLAENAVON WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE



Welcome to Blaenavon
World Heritage Site!

**POP ON YOUR FLAT
CAP AND COME ON IN...**

Click [here](#) to enter the Blaenavon Virtual Tour.

But keep me open –
I'm your virtual
tour guide!

Ready?

HERE'S YOUR ITINERARY

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Dressing the part

WE'RE TRANSPORTING YOU BACK IN TIME TO THE BIRTH OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION.

And to really understand what it was like to live and work in Blaenavon, you've got to look the part too.

So, fasten that waistcoat and pull up your socks, your journey is about to begin.



Our Story

WELCOME TO THE BLAENAVON WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE – THE HUB OF HISTORY ABOUT THE WORLD FAMOUS BLAENAVON WORLD HERITAGE SITE

As part of Blaenavon's World Heritage Site, the Heritage Centre sits beside the Big Pit Coal Museum and the Ironworks.

The World Heritage Site played a key part in the early industrial revolution, and really helped shaped the world we live in today!



The World Heritage Centre is situated within the former St. Peter's Church School.

More than 300 years ago, the school provided free education for children who worked at Blaenavon Ironworks.

Now it's been turned into a place to learn about the history of Blaenavon. And we even have

an exhibition, old classroom, café and gift shop.

**YOU'LL GET TO EXPLORE ALL OF
THIS VERY SOON...**

A look at the past

BLAENAVON'S BEEN ON QUITE A JOURNEY...

1789

Arrival of Hill, Pratt and Hopkins, who realised that Blaenavon had the perfect materials needed to make iron.

1790s

Iron furnaces were assembled, and accommodation was built to house the workers. Workers began to flood in.

A look at the past

MOVING INTO THE 1800S...

1800s

The Ironworks grew fast, and quickly became the second largest in Wales. More workers caused a huge demand for housing.

1840s – 1860

Work had begun to modernise the Ironworks. The railway arrived and work was finally finished by 1860. The Blaenavon's iron was being exported around the world.

The Big Pit ironstone and coal mine opened in 1860 as a development of the Ironworks.

1861 - 1880s

The iron industry was on the decline. Blaenavon attempted switching to steel production, but it was expensive.

The Brynmawr and Blaenavon Railway opened in 1866, with access to the mine workings and enabled coal to be transported to the midlands.

In 1980, the Big Pit was deepened from 39 metres to almost 90 metres and the railway line had extended into the London, Midland and Scottish Railway.

A look at the past

...AND FINALLY INTO THE 1900S

1920s

The ironworks had to close as British steel was too expensive compared with steel made abroad.

Big Pit provided employment for 1,399 men at its peak in 1923.

1938

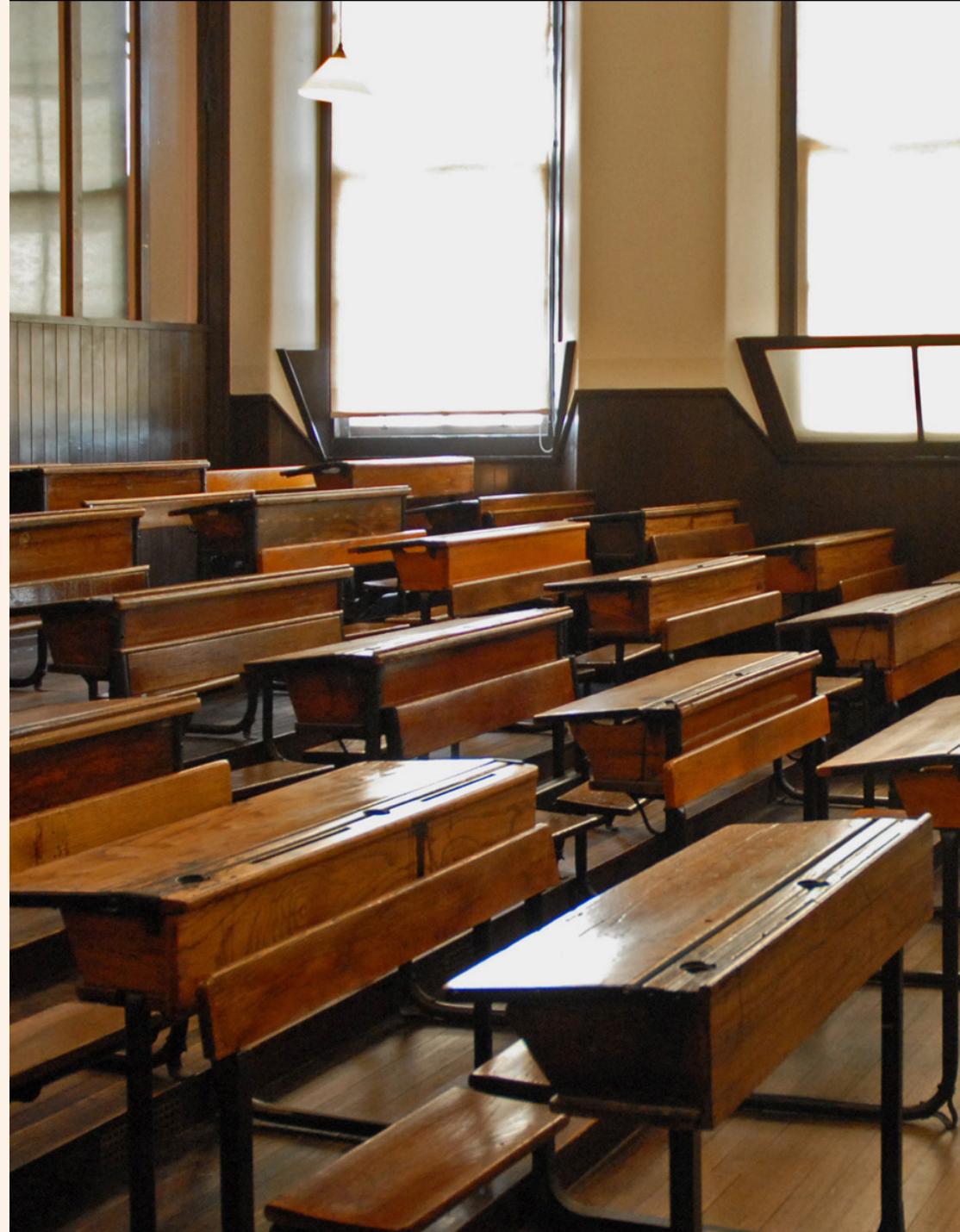
The last blast furnace was dismantled.

LIFE OF A VICTORIAN WORKER

- **Smoggy air, unbearable heat** and **deafening machinery**, welcome to life in Blaenavon.
- The conditions faced by the workers were **dreadful**.
- There was **no such thing as sick pay** and injured people had to return to work as soon as possible – if you could return!
- There were even **five** and **six years olds** working twelve hour shifts.
- Houses were often crammed with people, with many contained **only two rooms** — one up and one down. Some houses had up to **13 people** living in them!

LIFE IN A VICTORIAN CLASSROOM

- The school consisted of **two large rooms** and accommodated **120 pupils**.
- Writing was initially **taught on slates** (even in sand in some schools). If you were **left handed**, tough luck – that was strictly forbidden!
- Welsh language which was also **forbidden**, as it was seen to make children **‘wicked’**.



LIFE IN A VICTORIAN CLASSROOM

- Schools were **very strict** and you were punished for the slightest wrong doings.
- Whether it was getting the **cane, standing in a corner wearing a Dunces Cap**, or writing the **same line over and over again**, you didn't want to get in trouble!

Enough talking.
Would you like to see an original Victorian classroom? The headteacher is waiting for you inside...

IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO IMMERSE YOURSELF INTO A LESSON FROM THE VICTORIAN ERA AT BLAENAVON.

Instructions:

1. Click 'Start Lesson' at the bottom of the tour page.
2. Click on the teacher — she will set you a task.
3. Watch the two videos about the journey to school for children living in Blaenavon in the Victorian era.
4. Write down your own journey to school — work in pairs if you like and discuss as you go!

IT'S NOW TIME FOR YOU TO WANDER AROUND THE EXHIBITION AND ANSWER A FEW QUESTIONS AS YOU GO.

Instructions:

1. Click 'Home' at the bottom of the tour page.
2. Click on door to the 'Exhibition'.
3. Follow the arrows around the room.
4. Click on the exhibition's boards on the walls to zoom in and read the information.
5. Answer the question by clicking the big question mark next to it.
6. You've got 12 questions to answer!
Feel free to work individually, or split up and work in pairs or groups.

NOW YOU'VE DONE ALL THE HARD WORK, IT'S TIME TO EXPLORE THE HERITAGE CENTRE.

There's lots to see!

- Go check out the **exhibition, old classroom, café and gift shop** – you can even go and have a peek at the other sites like Big Pit and the Blaenavon Ironworks from above!
- Remember to **click on things** along the way.

Hint: head to the playground to hear some stories!

Checklist:

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT ABOUT BLAENAVON?

Today I've learnt:



Blaenavon's history



What it was like working in Blaenavon



What it was like going to school 300 years ago



What it was like living in Blaenavon



How important South Wales was in the industrial revolution

CONGRATULATIONS – YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE BLAENAVON WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE VIRTUAL TOUR!

Visit the Visit Blaenavon website for even more resources
visitblaenavon.co.uk



Thanks for
stopping by!

WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED YOUR VISIT!

WHERE TO FIND US: VISITBLAENAVON.CO.UK

  @VisitBlaenavon

