

Theme: 4
Key Stage: 2

People of Blaenavon

Dear Time Traveller,



You have been chosen by your teacher to be transported back in time between the years:

1920 - 1947

Your mission is to gather information. You will need to report back to your teacher when you return to the present time.

At the end of the First World War in 1918 there were over 12,000 people living in Blaenavon which was the highest number that there ever had been up to then. The town seemed to be doing well and there was plenty of work available for coal miners and iron and steel workers. But this didn't last.

By 1925 more than half of people of working age in Blaenavon didn't have a job and there seemed to be little hope of things getting better.

Read the large display panel called **A Town of Lost Hopes**.

Why were so many people out of work at this time?

Why was Blaenavon affected so much by this? Clue: Look at the timeline date for 1923 to find out where most people would have been working.

In 1926, all the coal miners in Britain refused to work as they were unhappy about the fact that the mine owners wanted them to work for longer hours and for less money. They believed that by going on strike they would force the mine owners to treat them more fairly. The 1926 strike lasted for 7 months! That meant 7 months without wages for the coal miners' families.

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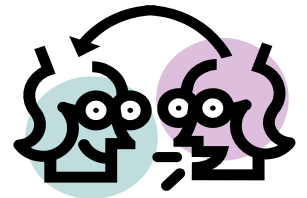
Read the words written by Ted Moreton on the large display panel and listen carefully to Cyril Price on the audio phone describing the strike and its effect on Blaenavon. What happened during the 1926 miners' strike? Make notes in the speech bubbles.

How did people cope without wages?

Who suffered most?

Did people help each other?

What happened after the strike finished?



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Tom Harris was born in Blaenavon in 1925. He went to school in the 1930s and remembers his childhood at this time. Listen carefully to what he says on the audio phone about growing up in Blaenavon in the 1930s. Make notes in the speech bubbles.

What was a soup kitchen?

How did Tom help his family to earn more money?

Many families lost their homes at this time because they were unable to afford to pay their rent. Sometimes they built shelters on waste ground. There is a photograph of one of these shelters on the timeline to the right of the miner washing at home. Describe what you can see in the photograph.

What do you think life was like for the young child you can see?