

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:

1900 up to 1945

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

You will find out what it was like to have lived in Blaenavon between 1900 and 1945.

In 1909 and 1912, the County Medical Officer wrote two reports about living conditions at Blaenavon. What did he find out?

Why did the local council agree to build 50 new homes in 1913?

What did the council start doing in 1922?

Look for a photograph of a miner washing at home. If you were as dirty as this where would you wash in your house? What does it tell you about homes at this time?

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In 1939, something was built at Blaenavon. What was this and what difference would it have made to miners' families?

On the mountain above Blaenavon there was a once a small village called Pwll Du which was knocked down many years ago. It was thought that the people living there would be better off if they were moved to modern houses in a less remote spot. There are people who remember Pwll Du when they were children. Listen carefully to Granville Jones on the audio phone talking about Pwll Du and what it was like growing up there.

Why was the village built there?

When Granville was born what didn't the houses at Pwll Du have?

Where were the toilets?
What were they like?

How many rooms were there upstairs in Granville's house?
Describe this room?

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What used to happen in the winters?

Next listen very carefully on the audio phone to *Graham Jenkins* who talks about the times he spent visiting his grandmother at Pwll Du when he was a boy.

What did *Graham* have to do when he arrived at his grandmother's house before she would give him some bread and a cold sausage to eat?

What was the floor made of?

What were the towels like?

How was the meat kept to stop the flies getting at it?

What did *Graham* help to make when it was raining?

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What would you have liked about living at Pwll Du? Why?

What would you have disliked about living at Pwll Du? Why?

If you had lived at Pwll Du and you had been given the choice to move into a modern house, what would you have decided to do?

Yes, I'll move because

No, I won't move because

Did the people at Pwll Du want to move? Should Pwll Du have been knocked down? Discuss this with your group.

