

MY PLACE, MY SPACE

Exploring Changes in Land Use and the Environment in the Dearne Valley

Introduction for Teachers

In this exercise students develop a deeper understanding of change in the Dearne Valley over time and the role played by individual people in that change. Students will investigate the lives of five past and present residents of the Dearne Valley. The exercise involves students in individual work and group work. It includes the use of Google Earth along with visual and textual information accessed through place marks on the Dearne Valley area of Google Earth.

This exercise can only be completed with a suite of computers and requires Google Earth to be installed on all the machines. Students are divided into groups of 5, each individual in the group taking on the role of a different person. These roles will be:

- (a) Joshua Tyke (YELLOW pins): lived in Wath-upon- Dearne, close to Manvers, all his life. Born in 1840, he worked his whole life at Brook Farm, Wath, as a farm labourer.
- (b) Jim McGregor (BLUE pins): born in Scotland Jim and his family moved into Nash Row at Manvers in 1912 and worked at Manvers Main Colliery until 1953.
- (c) Bill Thompson (GREEN pins): got his first job at Manvers Coking Works in 1960 and was made redundant from there in 1983.
- (d) Sarah Gill (LIGHT BLUE pins): left Wath Comprehensive School in 2002 at the age of 16. She now works at the Ventura call centre at Manvers.
- (e) Pauline Rodgers (RED pins): works in Rotherham's Planning Department and since 1990 has been closely involved in changes in the Manvers area.

Each student can research their character by accessing information on Google Earth. It is marked by 6 coloured pins. Taking the pins in number order each student gets information about their character and the area at a particular time. The information is presented in the form of a photo, map or illustration each with a caption. Each student should only look at the information for their particular character. Once every student has researched their character they rejoin their group and share information to discover how change over time affected the 5 characters and how that change was reflected in the Dearne Valley area.

The following worksheets may be used with this exercise but you may wish to produce your own.

Worksheet 1 ~ My Place, My Space: My Character Record.

Worksheet 2 ~ My Place, My Space: Change in the Dearne Valley - Bringing It All Together.

A suggested sequence of activities in this exercise could be:

- Select the students to form each 5-person group and sort out which students will take on which of the 5 character roles.
- Each student should access the information for their character through Google Earth.
- Using Worksheet 1 each student should record some key information about their character, and the local area they live in, from each of the numbered pins allocated to their character. Remind the students to collect information from the photos as well as the printed information.
- Once all 5 members of a group have completed Worksheet 1 they should sit down together in their group and share information orally about their characters and the area they lived in. It would probably be best to do this in chronological order so Joshua Tyke first, followed by Jim McGregor, Bill Thompson, Sarah Gill and Pauline Rodgers.
- Using Worksheet 2 each student should record some of the key features of change in the Dearne Valley over the past 150 years particularly relating to work, health, environment and sustainability.
- Each group should discuss what they think the area will be like in 50 years' time.
- Each group in turn should feed back to the whole class what they think have been the main changes in the Dearne Valley area in the past and how they think the area will change in the future.