

Minequest Task List: Black Diamond

Task #1: Visit each of the two sites below individually, take written notes and share what you find. Take turns reporting information you already knew, the most surprising facts you discovered and information that makes you think of questions you'd like to ask.

Task #2: Each member of your group will research one of the categories listed below: Life as a Miner, The Role of the Railroad, Disasters, or Ghost Towns. Remember to find information that will be interesting to readers of a commemorative newspaper and find enough information that you will understand what life as a miner really was like decades ago, what influence the railroad had on a miner's life and mining, what dangers a miner faced every time he went down into a mine, and what happened when the coal market died.

Task #3: Now that you all are historians, use the results of your research to write and edit a short story or a simulated diary entry, or create a commemorative newspaper which illustrates the importance of coal mining in the early days of Wyoming. Your teacher may tell you which one to do or your group may get to choose. In either case, your product should be interesting and creative, accurately reflecting historical events. You can be creative but base your work on the facts of the event.

Task #4: Imagine that the ghosts of miners and railroaders from the past visited today's world. Use the research you conducted on the history of mining to predict what changes in a modern day mine would be the most disturbing, surprising, expected, or exciting to them. Identify and describe one idea for each of these four categories.

Task #5: From the matrix above, select any two separate scores. Identify the scores you choose by the cell they are in such as Solution 3, Criterion 5. Explain what you were thinking when you gave these two ratings.

Task #6: For the solution that earns the highest total score, explain how the highest rated idea assures that the majority of individuals or groups involved are affected in a positive manner.