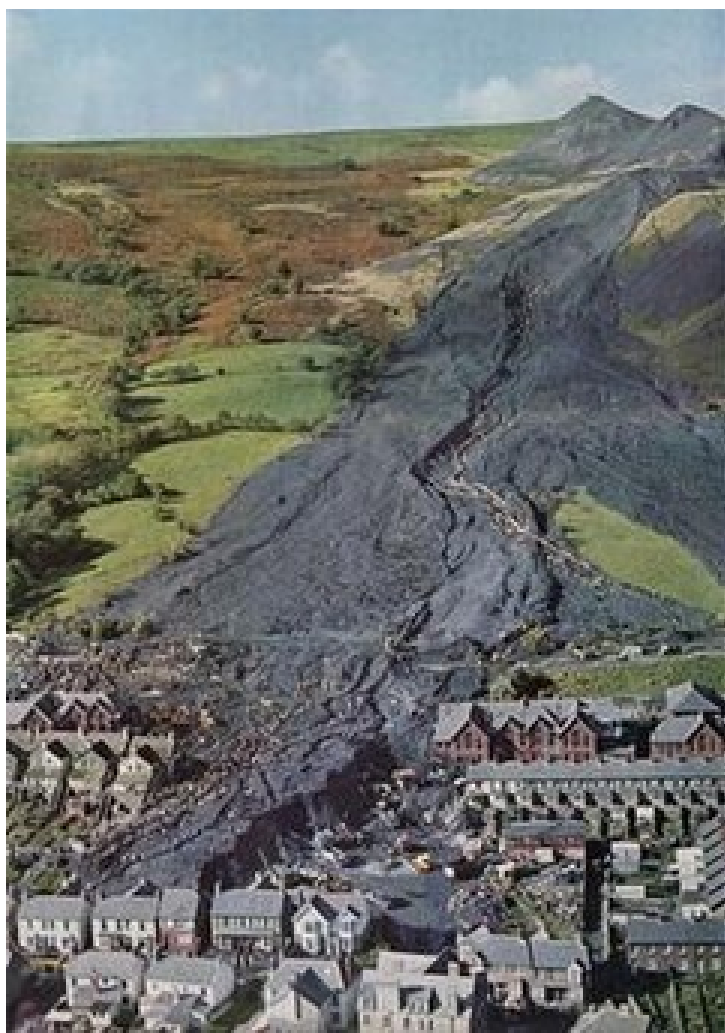


Aberfan



On October 21, 1966, a terrible disaster struck the small town of Aberfan in Wales. A waste dump from the local colliery, where coal is mined, had been placed on a hill above the town. After heavy rain, the waste began to slip and a mass of coal and slurry fell down the hill, picking up speed and power as it went. The disaster, known as the Aberfan disaster, was one of the worst to ever happen in Wales.



The avalanche of coal and slurry reached Aberfan in just five minutes, engulfing houses, a school, and other buildings in its path. The tragedy led to the deaths of 144 people, 116 of whom were children. The devastation was so great that the final death



toll was not known for several days and the recovery efforts lasted for weeks. The event shook the country and shocked the world.

The aftermath of the Aberfan disaster included public inquiries, changes in laws regarding tip safety, and compensation payments, but the effects of the tragedy have lasted far beyond that. Many of the families affected by the disaster continue to feel the pain of their loss today, over 50 years later. The memory of the disaster also led to advances in disaster planning and response, and raised awareness of the importance of maintaining safety standards in mining and other heavy industries.



1. What is a colliery? _____
2. What is slurry? _____
3. What does the word 'devastation' mean in this text? _____
4. What is meant by 'tip safety'? _____
5. When did the Aberfan disaster happen? _____
6. How long did it take for the avalanche to reach Aberfan? _____
7. How many people died in the disaster? _____
8. How long did the recovery efforts last? _____

Aberfan



PROGRESSION

1. Briefly describe the events that led up to the Aberfan disaster.

2. What were the main effects of the disaster?

3. What changes in laws occurred as a result of the disaster?

CHALLENGE

1. How did the disaster affect the families of those who were lost?

2. What kind of changes in laws occurred after the disaster?

3. How might the world have been different if the Aberfan disaster had never happened?

4. How does the author use language to convey the scale and gravity of the Aberfan disaster?

5. What words or phrases does the author use to create a sense of horror or shock?

EXTENSION

Using the language below, write a short diary entry about what happened that day

1. Tragic
2. Emotional
3. Devastating
4. Unimaginable
5. Heartbreaking
6. Catastrophic
7. Horrifying
8. Incredible
9. Overwhelming
10. Harrowing

11. Terrifying
12. Shocking
13. Chaotic
14. Unforgettable
15. Unsurvivable
16. Sad
17. Destructive
18. Overpowering
19. Unbelievable
20. Gripping

21. Detailed
22. Precise
23. Frightening
24. Jarring
25. Grievous
26. Distressing
27. Haunting
28. Scarring
29. Painful
30. Clamorous

A photograph showing a pile of dark, irregularly shaped coal or charcoal fragments. The pieces vary in size and shape, with some showing a rough, crystalline texture. The pile is set against a plain white background.

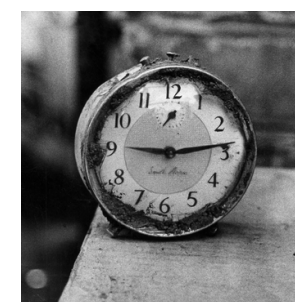
1. Dark and twisted metal beams
2. Muddy and treacherous terrain
3. Grey and ashen sky
4. Heavy and thick coal dust
5. Massive and daunting boulders
6. Crackling and sizzling electrical wires
7. Cold and sharp metal fragments
8. Searing and scorching flames
9. Scattered and broken timber planks
10. Loud and deafening engine sounds

1. Debris and rubble scattered as far as the eye can see.
2. The cloudy sky had turned grey due to the massive dust clouds formed from the collapse of the mine.
3. Twisted metal beams jutted out from the once-robust structure of the mine, now a mere shadow of its former self.
4. The ground was covered with a thick layer of coal dust, making it difficult to see where to place one's foot next.
5. The once pristine landscape had been reshaped into a chaotic mess of rocks, rubble, and debris.

1. The sound of frantic and anguished cries filled the air, as those affected by the disaster were calling for help.
2. The sound of rescue vehicles could be heard in the distance, as the emergency teams rushed to the area.
3. The sound of metal scraping against metal as the rescue operation commenced was a constant reminder of the tragedy.
4. The sound of electrical wires crackling and sizzling could be heard in the background, as the fires raged through the wreckage.
5. The silence that followed after the initial shock was palpable, as the extent of the damage and loss was realized.



Using the language as inspiration, write a short diary entry about what happened that day

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.