

Non – Fiction Text

Cornish 1d

Term 2

Tin mining 1

Who?

Where?

When*

Cornish engines were used for pumping water from the ever deeper tin and copper mines. They were also used to operate 'stamps' (machinery for crushing ore) and as winding or 'whim' engines to haul to surface the ore mined in the dark 'stopes' far below ground. The miners themselves had to climb up and down the shafts by a series of ladders, a tiring and dangerous activity, although at some mines a 'man-engine' was introduced. This consisted of a huge rod of joined timbers, driven by a Cornish beam engine, which moved alternately up and down in the shaft. Steps were attached to the rod, and to ascend or descend the miner stepped on or off at each stage or 'level' until he had reached the top or bottom.

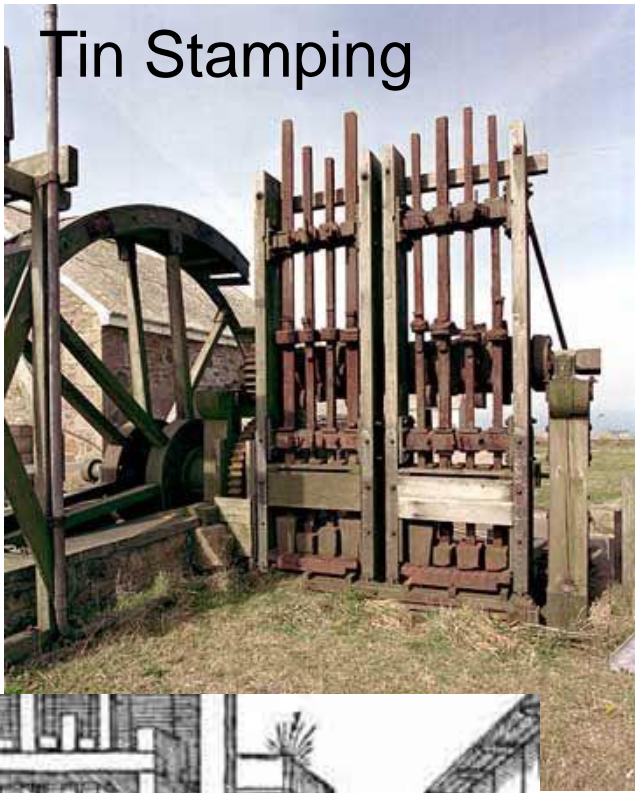


Miners enjoying their
'Crowst' or **'Crib'**
(a snack, usually a
pasty) at East Pool
Mine, between
Camborne and
Redruth, about 1893.

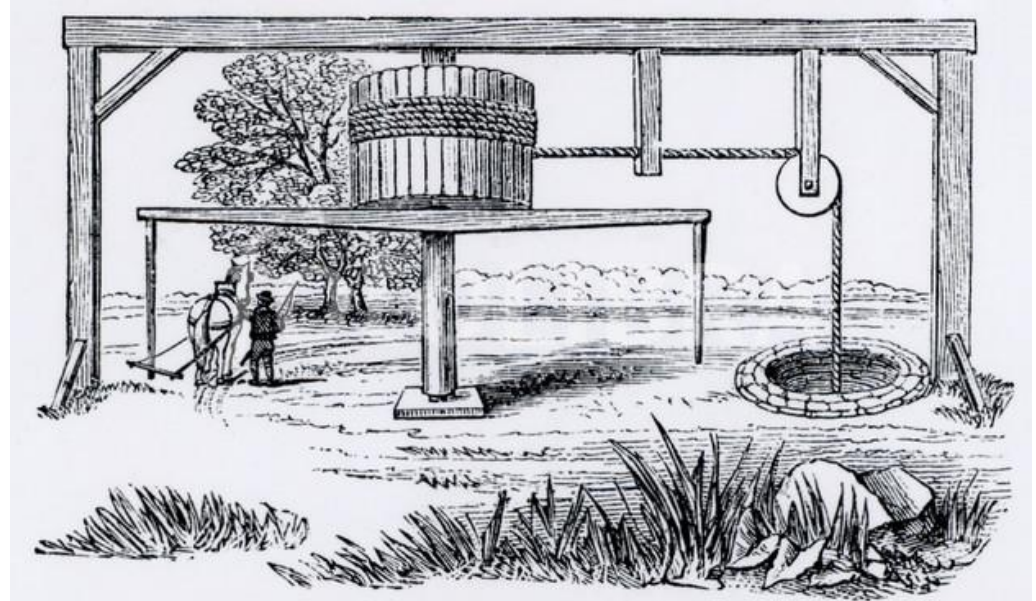
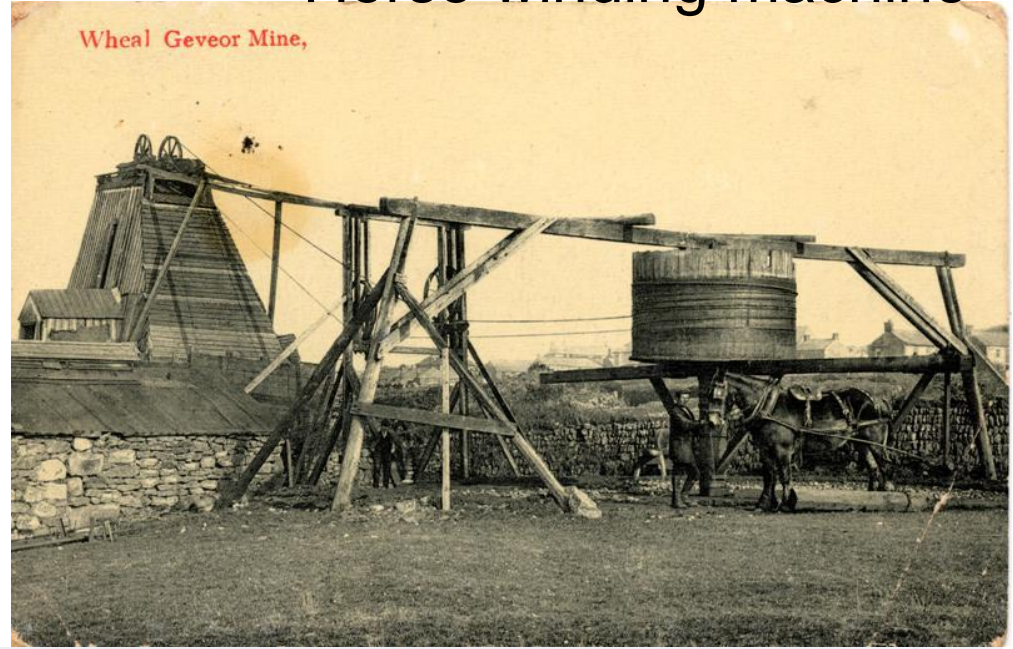


Miners riding the man engine at
Dolcoath Mine, Camborne, a
photograph taken by J.C. Burrow
in about 1893 'at the 234 fathom
level below adit'.

Tin Stamping



Horse winding machine



Questions

- 1, What was a tiring and dangerous activity?
- 2, What does ascend and descend mean?
- 3, What were Cornish engines used for?
- 4, How did the miners get to where they were working?
5. Describe what the miners are doing in the two photos. Write a paragraph for each photo.