



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

# Hot Seating

## National Curriculum- Key Stage 2 - POSTVISIT

History: Significant historical people in their own locality

## Learning Objective

To understand more about the lives, jobs and feelings of visitors and miners in the Victorian times.

## Success Criteria

**All:** will be able to ask questions to the person in the hot seat.

**Most:** with some support will be able to ask questions to the person in the hot seat. With teacher support will be able to sit in the hot seat and answer questions.

**Some:** can independently ask questions to the person in the hot seat. With some encouragement will be able to sit in the hot seat and answer questions.

## Activity

**Introduction:** Consider your visit to The Heights of Abraham and talk about what you can remember being told.

**Teach:** To discuss the lives the miners lived (considering what you have been told on your visit) considering the job they did and the quality of life. OR To discuss the lives the visitors lived (considering what you have been told on your visit) considering what their visit consisted of, how they travelled to get to the Heights of Abraham and their quality of life.

**Activity:** : In groups or as a whole class encourage children to sit in the hot seat and pretend they are a miner or a visitor. If children are reluctant to take part, demonstrate and be a miner or visitor yourself until the children feel more comfortable.

**Plenary:** discuss as a whole class how the miners felt? How do they think the miners' children would feel?

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## The Heights of Abraham Facts Sheet

Lead was mined in the caverns on Masson Hill from the 1400s. The Romans may also have mined lead here. Mining was at its peak in the 1700s but declined as the ore became harder to find and less economic. The mine closed in the 1830s.

The Great Rutland Cavern-Nestus Mine was opened to the public in 1810. The Great Masson Cavern was opened in 1844. Some of the old miners became guides.



### The Victoria Prospect Tower

Built in 1844 (a plaque on the side gives the date) it provided work for some of the unemployed miners. The barren hillside was developed as a pleasure garden and trees were planted from around 1780 onwards.

As late as the mid-eighteenth century no carriage had ever passed through the dale. Then, with the building of a road and a few hotels, it became a fashionable resort for the well-to-do. Wealthy visitors, attracted by the scenery and the spa waters, travelled to the Heights of Abraham by foot or on a donkey.

In 1842 the railway from Derby opened as far as Ambergate so making day trips from Midlands' industrial towns possible. From Ambergate, visitors were taken in boats along the canal to Cromford. They then walked a mile to Matlock Bath. Many factories organised excursions on the annual works holiday. Sometimes parties of as many as 500 people!

By 1847 trains ran as far as Matlock Bath. Rail travel was cheap and trains, each with up to 50 coaches, would come from as far away as London. As many as 10,000 people visited Matlock Bath by rail on a typical bank holiday in the mid 1800s.

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## The Heights of Abraham Facts Sheet

### Mining Techniques

There is evidence of two different kinds of mining on the site. The miners used picks to dig out the ore. You will also see long smooth grooves or holes made by miners using the plug and feather method. The miners would drive a plug between two wedges in a crack in the wall to split the rock.

They also used fire. This process is recreated in a sound and light presentation in the Great Rutland Cavern.

### Miners' Plaque

Some miners scratched their initials and date onto the ceiling and walls of the cavern. You'll see one high up in the Great Masson, evidencing that when this part of the mine was being worked the floor was higher.



### Spoil from the Mines

Mineral dug out of the mine was taken to the surface where it was crushed and the lead separated from the waste. The waste/spoil was left on the hillside. It can be seen as mounds of small grey stones all around as you emerge from the Great Masson Cavern.

### Leisure and Tourism

The summer house, built in 1801 from Tufa (limestone) was the first building on the site. It was used as a resting place and view point by visitors. The Victoria Prospect Tower was built to provide work for the unemployed but was also a tourist attraction and landmark. The woodland was planted more than 200 years ago when it was fashioned to create natural forests known as pleasure gardens with space between the planting to allow for view points.

