



Teachers' Answer Sheet

Number 2 Francis Street

TASK: To explore a 1913 miner's cottage

This cottage represents the home of a miner, his wife and their grown up sons. The men were well paid for their work in the mine. Take a look at how the cottage is organised and furnished. You will need to look into the cottage through the windows and doors from both sides of the house.

1. Match the rooms

Downstairs the house is split into three rooms; a kitchen, parlour and a small scullery. The rooms are used for different purposes. Match up the rooms to their uses.

Parlour

- ◆ Entertaining friends
- ◆ Sleeping

Scullery

- ◆ Storing food

Kitchen

- ◆ Cooking food
- ◆ Having a bath
- ◆ Eating breakfast

The kitchen was also often used as a bedroom in the colliery cottages, although the beds are less obvious here. Dess beds were used. This is a piece of furniture that looks like a low wardrobe, but folds out to make a bed.

2. Quick questions

What did people like to display in their scullery window?

Egg cups

What refreshment do you think you would be served if you visited Number 2?

A tea service and tea pot can be seen on the parlour table, so a cup of tea is most likely. A kettle may also be seen in the kitchen. This house represents the home of a Methodist family who would have been teetotal. Many Methodists supported the temperance movement and there is a temperance certificate on the wall of this cottage.



3. Around the house you can see religious texts and sayings. Where can you see the examples below?



In the kitchen above the doorway to parlour



Above the kitchen mantelpiece



In the corner of the parlour

4. Look at the poster below.

Which organisation were the people living at Number 2 members of?

Durham Miners' Association

A miners' union is an organisation formed by miners to make their working lives better. Many Union men were also Methodists. They were cool and calm and improved their working lives by talking to the mine managers. They avoided striking. Why do you think the coal mine owners often supported the Methodist Church?

Coal owners often considered the Methodist movement to be a stabilising influence on the workforce. Their teetotal tradition meant that they didn't drink alcohol and sober miners made better workers, deputies or managers.

Methodists were brought up to be reliable and hardworking. They believed in self improvement and had an interest in politics and current events. Chapel encouraged members to fight for better working conditions, shorter hours and higher wages. In the Union they tended to be cool, steady men who were often successful in their debates with the managers and who avoided strike action if possible.