



Teachers' Answer Sheet

Number 3 Francis Street

TASK: To explore religion in a 1913 miner's cottage.

This pit cottage shows the home of a Roman Catholic family in 1913. Like many other people, the family would have moved to the area to find work in the coal mines in North East England.

1. What evidence of religion can you see in this cottage?

Can you find the following items? Make a note of where you saw them.

You will need to look into the kitchen and parlour from both sides of the cottage.

Crucifix

On the window ledge in the parlour.

Rosary beads

On the window ledge in the parlour or hanging on the chair near the door in the parlour.

Picture of the Pope

Above the fireplace in the parlour.

Statue of Mary and Jesus

On the mantelpiece in the parlour.

Picture of the Last Supper

In the parlour.





2. God in a Bottle

On the mantelpiece is a God in a Bottle. Look at this picture of a God in a Bottle. What can you see inside?

The glass bottle contains symbols of the crucifixion.

It is a piece of folk art, similar to a ship in a bottle.

3. Find out more

Where have this family come from?

This cottage represents the home of a family from Irish descent. Many Irish families came to North East England to work in the steel works and the mines. The Irish immigrants provided a large reserve of casual, cheap and often highly mobile labour. They settled down with little trouble and were assimilated into the local population.

How many people might have lived in this house?

Families were large - up to 12 in many cases and quite often extended families, married sons and daughters and lodgers all lived together in the same house.

Can you spot the bed in the kitchen?

Where is it?

A dess bed is under the stair ladder. The doors open out and a bed folds down.

What is going on in the kitchen today? What would have happened on the different days of the week?

The kitchen was a very busy room, serving as a bakehouse, bathroom, laundry, eating place, living room and often as a bedroom. Different jobs were done on different days. Monday was always laundry day, Friday was bath day and Sunday was a day of rest.

Imagine you are back in 1913. How would you feel if you lived in this house?

Pupils will have different thoughts about living in a pit cottage in 1913. The idea of living in a busy, bustling home with a strict weekly routine may appeal to some but not to others. Living without electricity would mean many differences that can be discussed.