



Teachers' Answer Sheet

Compare and Contrast

TASK: To compare and contrast miners' cottages in 1913.

Francis Street shows a terrace of miners' cottages. Number 2 and Number 4 show the homes of Methodist families. Number 3 shows the home of a Roman Catholic family. The cottages have the same rooms, but you can spot differences and similarities between them.

1. What's the difference?

Visit Number 2 and Number 4.

What do you notice that is different between these cottages?
Note down two differences.

The most obvious differences are the laundry hanging over the fire to dry and the rug making that is taking place in the kitchen in Number 4. Students may spot other differences.

Which cottage is home to a well paid miner and his family?

Number 2

Which is home to a poorer family?

Number 4

Why do you think this cottage is home to a poorer family?

Number 4 shows the home of a widower with only a teenage son working in the mine. To make more money, the mother will take in laundry and make rugs to sell. This can be seen in the kitchen. The family at Number 2 have the father and sons working in the mine, bringing home good wages. They are comfortably off by comparison and can afford nice furniture and a tea set.

Both of these families were members of the Methodist Church. Can you see any similarities to do with their religion?

In both cottages, certificates to do with the church are on the walls e.g. Sunday School certificates. Certificates relating to the temperance movement are also on display.



2. Compare all the cottages

Now visit Number 3, which shows the home of a Roman Catholic family. Can you spot two similarities between all the cottages? These can be connected to everyday living, e.g. how the cottage is organised, equipment that was used to do chores etc.

Pupils can spot many similarities to do with everyday living between the cottages, e.g. all have a range for heating and cooking, all have a parlour which is also used as a bedroom.

Can you spot two differences between the Methodist and Catholic cottages connected with their religious beliefs?

Differences may relate to the texts on the wall in the Methodist cottages, the picture of the Pope and other religious pictures in the Catholic cottage, or the God in the bottle, rosary beads and crucifix in the Catholic cottage.

3. Step back in time

Think about your own home and imagine you lived in a pit cottage in 1913. What would you miss most from living in the modern day and why?

Students will come up with many different things they would miss from their homes today. For example:

- ◆ electric lights;
- ◆ electrical equipment e.g. computers and televisions;
- ◆ bathrooms;
- ◆ cookers rather than ranges or open fires.

Comparing the pit cottages to their own home helps to illustrate how different everyday life was in 1913.

