

WHAT THE BADGERS



SAW 10



Industry comes to the North East



Hello, we're back again. We hope you enjoyed meeting Shadow. Let's have a look at something that really changed the North East - the start of real industry.

When Henry VII became king in 1485, the North East was covered in woodland. Green fields came right down to the River Tyne around Newcastle. Middlesbrough wasn't even on the map! It was great for badgers. Now look at it!

Coalmining was the first real industry in the North East. When roads were poor and railways didn't exist, moving coal had to be done by water. The Rivers Wear and Tyne were really useful. The coal could be put onto ships and sailed to places like London.



Salt was also mined in the North East, This led to the start of the chemical industry on Teesside. Glass was made at South Shields and Sunderland. Today, the salt and glass industries are not very important in this region.

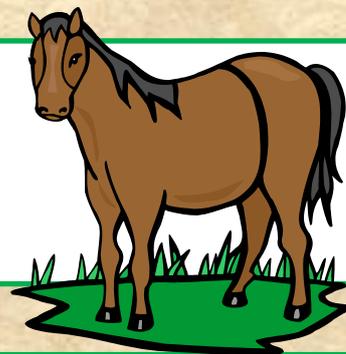
Iron was first made on a large scale in 1682, in Sunderland. Here was coal, charcoal and water power. In 1745. The first blast furnaces to use coke were built at Whitehill near Chester-le-Street. Sword-making was a big industry at Shotley Bridge.

Shipbuilding started very early on the Tyne and Wear. In 1346, Thomas Menish began building ships at Hendon. He paid the Bishop 10p per year in rent.



Shipbuilding remained a major industry until recent times.

Lead mining had always gone on since the Middle Ages, but became a big industry on the moorlands of the North Pennines after 1700. You can often see the entrances to the tunnels in the dales today. (Why not visit Killhope lead mining museum?) <http://www.killhope.org.uk> As there were not deep rivers and the land was so hilly, all of the lead had to be carried by ponies.



The start of industry in the North East was coalmining. As the pits were near to the sea, the coal could be transported long distances. The shipbuilding industry grew from this. Coal was also used to power the salt and glass industries.

Flooding of mines was a big problem, but Newcomen's engine meant that mines could be built deeper, so that more coal could be dug out.

Today, many industries here are 'hi-tech', and the old heavy industries are largely gone.