**Lesson:** Exploring Coal Towns
**Content area**: History
**Grade:** 8-12

**Standards:**

PA History standards

#### [8.1.12.C](http://www.pdesas.org/standard/StandardsBrowser/23846/)

#### [8.2.9.B](http://www.pdesas.org/standard/StandardsBrowser/23858/)

#### [8.2.9.D](http://www.pdesas.org/standard/StandardsBrowser/23868/)

#### PA Science and Technology Standards

#### [3.4.10.A1](http://www.pdesas.org/standard/StandardsBrowser/25379/)

#### [3.4.12.B1](http://www.pdesas.org/standard/StandardsBrowser/25389/)

**Resources:**

* <http://www.coalcampusa.com/westpa/index.html>
* <http://books.google.com/books?id=yYRXBPACntAC&printsec=frontcover&dq=coal+towns&hl=en&ei=E0TATputFMXj0QGe_rTpBA&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1&ved=0CDoQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q&f=false>

**Materials:**

* Computer/Internet Access

**Objectives:**

* Students will explore the dynamics of coal towns which are/were formed in western Pennsylvania
* Given specific criteria, students will report their findings about their assigned coal town
* Students will better understand the cultural influence historic coal mining had on Pennsylvania
* Students will report on the influence coal mining had on immigration to Pennsylvania

**Set Up:**

1. Assign each student/pair/group a coal town in western Pennsylvania listed at <http://www.coalcampusa.com/westpa/index.html>
2. Have students read part 3 and part 4 of *Coal Towns: Life, Work and Culture in coal towns*

**Procedure:**

1. Next, have students visit <http://www.coalcampusa.com/westpa/index.html> and click on their assigned coal town.
2. Have students explore their assigned coal field.
3. Students should be instructed to concentrate on the theme of community through community stores, houses built for workers, and community churches.
4. Students create a presentation which has pictures, dates, and facts (optional: use PowerPoint)

**Closure**:

1. Students present their findings to the class orally and/or with PowerPoint.

**Adaptations**:

1. Students could simply report their findings in a research paper and provide at least one picture.
2. If your school is located near a coal town or a historic coal town, the entire class could work towards researching the same coal town. If not, each could be assigned a separate one, or the teacher could designate one for exploring
3. This activity could be done as a Jigsaw activity. Assign the entire class to one coal town. For each one of the coal fields, there are different towns. Assign each person within their group to a specific town. Give students enough time to explore their town and make an outline of the information they find. Next, have students get into their expert groups where they discuss their outlines. Finally, have students go back to their original groups and have them teach each other about their specified town. If desired, create a 10 question quiz to give students after sharing.