

Modern History:
The Industries of BC



YOU ARE HERE

KEY QUESTION

What were some industries that opened up BC? What were they like?

- Have a look around the three industries: Mining, Logging, and Fishing/Canning. Read the following accounts and look at the pictures.
- As a group discuss both the positive and negative sides of working in each industry.



A Miner's Day

"If you were down in the mines, you'd push three or four hundred two-ton cars a day. How do you push a two-ton car? You get your back to it, your heels dug in, and push! It was just pick and shovel, and you got 86 cents for a ton of coal."

From Sound Heritage Volume VII, number 4 (1978) p. 38.

A Logger's Day

"The first morning light would see them already at their place of work, perhaps a mile's rowboat journey from their home. There they would slave all day; carrying their sharp awkward tools up through the hillside underbrush; chopping and sawing, felling big timber; cutting up logs, barking them; using their heavy jackscrews to coax logs downhill to the sea. At evening, they would tow such logs as they had floated round to their boom, and put the logs inside, in safety. Then they could go home and dry their clothes, and cook supper, and sleep like dead men."

From woodsmen of the west by M. A. Grainger (Arnold, 1908), p. 53

Which job would you prefer to work? _____

Is this job dangerous? What would you need to worry about as a worker?
