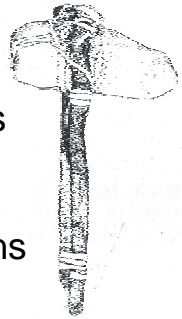


## HISTORY

Did you know that there were miners at Alderley Edge four thousand years ago? They used stone hammers and wooden spades. Even the Romans mined copper at Alderley Edge. Most mining was between 300 and 100 years ago. Engine Vein is probably the oldest mine.



Wood Mine and West Mine are over one hundred years old. Why not take a look at the old mining tools in the museum.



**1. What do we now call the shaft that the**

**Romans made? .....**

**2. Can you draw a stone hammer on the back of this page?**

*Use this page for your answers and pictures.*



**DERBYSHIRE  
CAVING CLUB  
and the  
ALDERLEY EDGE  
MINES**

Your name: .....

The Alderley Edge mines are explored by the Derbyshire Caving Club. If you go down the mine, someone from the Club will lead you all the way. We think this is a great way for you to find out about the past as well as to enjoy a special day out. While you are here, why not try to find out more about the mines from one of the cavers and miners? You could even ask them to help you with the questions on each page.



**1. What is the name of the mine you visited?**

.....

**2. What was the best bit of the trip?**

## MINING



The men who dug out the rock were called miners. They were good at digging shafts and tunnels.

Shafts are tunnels that go up and down. Until less than a hundred years ago, all the mining was done by hand, but they had gunpowder to break the rocks. The rock that they mined, known as ore, was brought to the surface in trucks on a narrow railway, pushed by hand. West Mine is the biggest mine. This was dug out between 1850 and 1870. Parts of the main part of the mine are 30 metres wide and 20 metres high, all dug by hand.



**1. The miners did not have stairs so how did they get in and out of the mine?**

**2. Draw your own mine on the back of this page with a shaft, tunnels and a railway.**

## THE ROCKS

Alderley Edge and Cheshire were once in a dry sandy desert. This is why the rock under your feet is called sandstone. The rock is in layers like the layers of a cake. Millions of years later, copper came from deep below the ground and filled the cracks between the rocks. Look for the green colour which is the copper ore. This is what the miners have been digging out and turning into metal.



**1. What other colour does the copper make in the mines?**

**2. Pure copper is reddish brown in colour. Can you think of something at home made of copper?**

## THE LEGEND

There is a famous story about the Wizard of Alderley Edge. His name is Merlin and he looks after an army of knights with horses. They all live in a cave at Alderley Edge. No one knows where the cave is although people have looked for a long time. The story is that Merlin needed one more horse for his army. He got the horse from a local farmer who was given treasure in return. The little picture shows Merlin outside his cave with the Alderley Beacon in the background. The Beacon was there in 1588.



**1. What colour was the horse that Merlin needed for his hidden army? .....**

**2. What was the Beacon used for in 1588?**