

Eyam

County: Derbyshire

Population: around 1000 people

The historic village of Eyam (pronounced 'eem') sits in the Peak District national park in Derbyshire, England.

Eyam has a rich history which has caused the village to grow in popularity and it is now visited by many tourists. However, the number of people living in the village remains low.

Eyam



Farming and Mining

Eyam has strong farming and mining links due to its location.

It is believed that the first wheat grown in the village was introduced by Sam Furniss between 1758 and 1819. However, due to the elevation and terrain around the village, wheat is not grown there today.



Eyam stands on a bed of limestone. Because of this, miners were able to gather a range of precious and valuable minerals within its layers. Mining has been an important feature of Eyam's history, with the Hucklow Edge Vein that feeds into Eyam proving to be a prosperous area for mining.

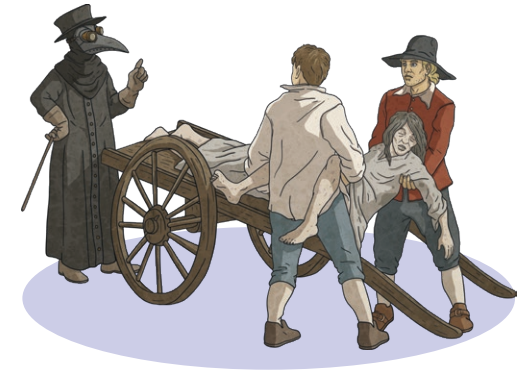
The Plague Village

During the summer of 1665, the village tailor Alexander Hadfield received a delivery of materials from London that had been infected by the plague.

As a result of this, the plague rapidly spread around Eyam. By 1666, 260 of the 800 residents had sadly died due to the outbreak.

In an attempt to prevent further spread of the plague, the villagers decided to follow a strict quarantine and they buried their own family members close to their homes to prevent the spread.

The unique circumstances, along with the quick reactions of the villagers, are what makes Eyam so historically significant today.



A Brief History of Eyam

1086 – Eyam was known as 'Aiune' in the Domesday Book.

1350 – The medieval elements of the Parish Church of St Lawrence, including the nave of the church, were built.

1665 – Alexander Hadfield received materials which had been contaminated by the plague.

1665-66 – The plague killed 260 people in the village of Eyam.

1979 – Ladywash Mine was the final mine to close in Eyam.

Disclaimer: Sensitive and/or upsetting topics may emotionally impact your students due to past experiences. You should consider whether this content is appropriate and ensure adequate support is available for anyone affected.

Glossary

Eyam

Domesday Book:

a written survey of England that King William I ordered to be written.

contaminated:

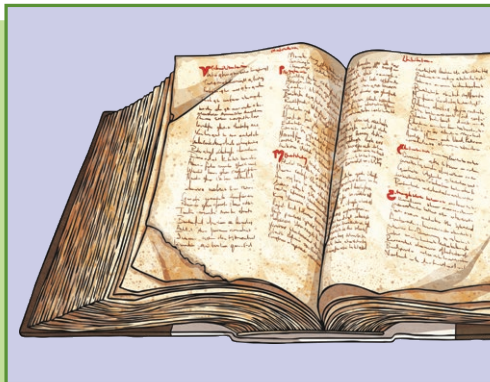
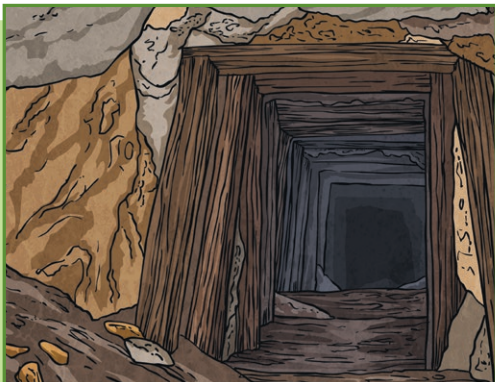
something that is infected by an unwanted or dangerous substance.

elevation:

the height of a place – usually the height above sea level.

prosperous:

successful and providing the best outcome.



quarantine:

a period of time when a person or animal with a disease is kept away from others to stop the disease from spreading.

revenue:

the money that an area or government receives.

terrain:

the natural area of land.