THE BRIDGENORTH JOURNAL

FEARFUL PIT INCIDENT AT MADELEY NINE PERSONS KILLED

1st October 1864

On Tuesday evening an accident of fearful nature and attended with serious loss of life occurred at a colliery midway between Ironbridge and Madeley. The pit in question belongs to the Madeley Wood Company, and is known by the name of the Lane Pit. It appears that shortly before six o'clock the last band of men were **ascending** from work, when those on the bank were alarmed by the sound of a heavy body falling to the bottom. An **outcry** was made, and hundreds of people were quickly on the spot. A number of miners volunteered to descend, and on their arrival at the bottom, it was found that the skip had fallen, and had broken through the scaffold below. The bodies of the poor fellows were lying in the sump beneath. The scaffold was **composed of** 6-inch oak, and this was broken through as if it had merely been paper. As soon as possible, the bodies were brought to bank and **conveyed** to an **adjacent** public house, to await the **coroner's inquest**. The following is a list of the killed Edward Mallett, married, four children; Benjamin Davies, single; John Tranter, married, six children; and William Onions, Jospeh Maiden, John Fair, John Jones, William Jarratt, and Francis Cookson, the last six being boys.

The cause of the accident has yet to be **ascertained**, and will form the subject of **inquiry** before the **coroner** and Government Inspector of mines. In the mean time the general impression is that the **tackle or doubles** were not properly hooked on to the main chain, or rather, had become partially detached, and that the disaster was, therefore, so far, the result of carelessness. W. Anstice Esq., one of the firm, Mr. Bayliss the agent, and the two field doctors were upon the ground. Mr. John Anstice, the **chief proprietor**, was from home, but was promptly **telegraphed** to. The sad occurrence has cast a gloom over the entire neighbourhood.

Men of Madeley Newspaper Report - Vocabulary Comprehension

telegraphed | adjacent | ascertained | ascending

composed of | conveyed | chief proprietor | inquiry

tackle or doubles | coroner's inquest | outcry | sump

Match the words above, taken from the newspaper report, to the definitions in the table below. You may want to re-read the words as they appear in the newspaper report to help you work out what they mean.

Word	Definition
	Made up of or built from certain materials or parts.
	Sent a message quickly using a machine called a telegraph, which was used before phones or emails existed.
	A low area where water, mud, or other things can collect, often found at the bottom of something like a pit.
	Found out or discovered something for sure.
	The main owner or person in charge of a business or land.
	The equipment, like ropes or chains, used to lift or move people and objects, especially in mining.
	Going up or climbing higher.
	A meeting or investigation led by a coroner to find out how and why someone died. A coroner is a person whose job is to investigate the circumstances surrounding deaths.
	Moved or carried something from one place to another.
	An official investigation or careful questioning to find out the truth about something.
	A loud cry or protest, often because something bad has happened.
	Next to or very close to something else.

Men of Madeley Newspaper Report - Comprehension

Colour in the key and then highlight the information, in the newspaper report, that answers each of the questions below.

Key:

- ☐ Where and when did the accident happen?
- ☐ What alerted people that something had happened and what did they find when they arrived?
- ☐ Where were the bodies of the people who died taken to?
- ☐ What were the names of the miners who were killed?
- ☐ What did they think were the possible causes of the accident?
- ☐ What were the names of the agent and the chief proprietor of the Madeley Wood Colliery?

Men of Madeley Newspaper Report - Group Task

In 1864, there was no radio, television or internet.

Today, we often see news reporters speaking from outside law courts or inquests, to report on what has been heard about an event.

How might the details from this incident be reported today, on the Six O'clock News?

In small groups script a report from the pit disaster at Madeley.

One person is the news presenter, who will begin by asking open questions to the reporter.

One person will be the reporter who gives the detailed report on what has been said at the inquest.

Others can be eyewitnesses or other important people who could be interviewed by the reporter.

All can help to write the script. Make sure the script includes at least one of the new vocabulary words that you have learnt.

To be successful, your report must:

- Include key details about what has happened, where, when, how and who was involved
- Present the feelings of the people in the local community
- Include your own conclusions about what has been said in the inquest

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Local History

Historic England and Teacher's Pet have come together to bring you a collection of free resources that you can use in your local history teaching.

Historic England | Teacher's Pet

Who are Teacher's Pet?

Teacher's Pet have been providing downloadable and playable educational content to early years and primary school teachers for over 14 years. We cover all areas of the curriculum and use a team of in-house teachers and designers to create engaging and memorable concepts, that the children will love.

Why local history?

At Teacher's Pet we want to empower primary school teachers by giving them the tools they need to deliver inspiring and thoughtful lessons about the local area and its history. We believe local history teaching has such an important part to play in a child's wellbeing – helping to give children a sense of pride in where they live.

Our Local History project is designed to provide teachers across the UK with everything they need to successfully carry out a full scheme of teaching about their local area, through key enquiry questions and source led activities.

Working with Historic England gives us access to archived maps and photos for resources and information from knowledgeable local historians, as well helping us to provide the content to you free of charge.

For more information about our Local History project or to find out more about Teacher's Pet Classroom Resources, please visit our website.

www.tpet.co.uk