

Roslyn Cemetery

Lesson Three – Grade Four

Hardships & Mortality

Background Knowledge: Roslyn

Work together in a small group to review what you have learned about Roslyn in the last 2 lessons. Once you think you have covered all the important information, be prepared to share with the rest of the class.

Background Knowledge: Disasters and Tragedy

Brainstorm some tragedies and disasters you have heard about. These events can be recent or in the past. These tragedies can be considered natural disasters (earthquake, tsunami) or man-made (car crash).

Background Knowledge: Hardships and Difficulties

When thinking about these tragedies, what were some of the hardships and difficulties people faced during and after them? (Physical injury, loss of family members, loss of housing). Feel free to research online to help with your thought process.

How did people work to overcome these hardships and heal?



Worst coal-mine disaster in Washington history kills 45 miners at Roslyn
on May 10, 1892.

By David Wilma

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Bolded and underline added for emphasis

At 1:45 p.m. on Tuesday, May 10, 1892, an explosion and fire killed 45 miners in the Northern Pacific Coal Company's No. 1 mine at Roslyn, located in the eastern foothills of the Cascade Mountains in Central Washington. It will prove to be the worst coal-mine disaster in Washington state history.

Kittitas County Coal

In May 1886, **surveyors** from the Northern Pacific Railroad found **coal deposits** on railroad land east of its new station at Cle Elum. The railroad needed coal to fuel its locomotives as it worked to complete the line across the Cascades through Stampede Pass. Workers immediately began to construct a rail line from Cle Elum to the new settlement of Roslyn, along with houses and mine works.

In December 1886, the first coal was shipped out of the Roslyn No. 1 mine. Roslyn -- named by Northern Pacific Vice President Logan M. Bullitt either for a town in Delaware, the birthplace of a sweetheart, or for a town in New York, the residence of a friend -- grew to more than 1,200 residents including many immigrants and African Americans. Roslyn No. 1 mine was followed by three more Northern Pacific mines in the area.

Conditions in the Mine

By 1892, Roslyn No. 1 mine had expanded to seven levels and a depth of 2,700 feet below the town. Eleven furnaces burned around the clock to create drafts to **ventilate** the mine and disperse dangerous **methane** gas (called at the time firedamp). But the main airway did not extend below the fourth level. A passage cut into the slope below the fourth level provided some ventilation. Miners were in the process of connecting the airway from the fifth level to the sixth level and downward when the volatile gas **detonated**.

Mine officials started a recovery effort, but many miners were **reluctant** to go back down into the mine. The first day, workers removed 14 bodies. All 45 bodies were removed by Thursday afternoon. The victims were buried in local cemeteries, one for whites and one for African Americans. These coal-mine workers were some of the 50,000 coal miners killed on the job in the United States between 1870 and 1914.

Investigations

Two committees, one of mine officials, one of miners, as well as a State Coal Mine Inspector, First District Coal Mine Inspector David Edmunds, launched investigations. The miners' committee differed on the seat of the explosion. The company committee set the location at the airway being driven between the fifth and sixth levels and stated that the explosion was touched off by blasting powder used to break the rock. The State Inspector of Mines believed that the mining blast opened a crack to a pocket of gas and that a miner's lamp on the slope side set off the explosion.

Most miners worked with the help of light from open flames attached to their hats. The miners on the airway side used gauze safety lamps. Coal itself contains methane and in a dusty mine an explosion immediately **distills** more gas from the coal dust, fueling the fire. Later coal mines were sprinkled with water to control dust, and later still they were rock-dusted (usually with powdered limestone), to **dilute** the highly combustible coal dust. Sprinkling or rock-dusting greatly reduces the danger of explosion and fire, but this was before that time.

At Roslyn No. 1, workers not killed by the explosion itself were quickly **asphyxiated**. The **coroner's** jury established that "the death was caused by an explosion of gas caused by "**deficient** ventilation" (Inspector of Mines, 15).

The disaster created 29 widows and 91 orphans. Some families filed suit against the Northern Pacific Coal Co. The parties settled with \$1,000 going to each widow except where there was a working age son and then the payment was \$500.

The last Roslyn coal mine closed in 1962.

The Victims

The 45 killed miners were:

- | | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| - Joseph Bennett | - Dominio Bianco | - John Bowen | - Thomas Brennan |
| - George Brooks | - Joseph Browitt | - Henry Campbell | - Tobias Cooper |
| - Joseph Cusworth, Jr. | - Joseph Cusworth, Sr. | - Herman Daister | - Phillip D. Davis |
| - Andrew Erlandson | - George Forsythe | - Richard Forsythe | - John Foster |
| - Scott Giles | - Robert Graham | - William Hague | - Mitchell Hale |
| - Frank Haney | - John Hodgson | - Thomas Holmes | - James Huston |
| - Elisha Jackson | - John Lafferty | - J. D. Lewis | - Preston Loving |
| - John Mattias | - Daniel McLellan | - James Morgan | - George Moses |

- Benjamin Ostliff
- David Rees
- Robert Spotts
- Sydney Wright

- William Palmer
- Thomas Rees
- Winyard Steele

- William Penhall
- William Robinson
- Jacob Weatherley

- Leslie Pollard
- Mitchell Ronald
- G. M. Williams



united states mine rescue association

Mine Disasters in the United States

Roslyn, Wash.

At 1:45 o'clock yesterday afternoon a terrible explosion occurred in the slope of mine No. 2* of the Northern Pacific Coal Company at this point, in which the loss of life exceeded in number that of any other disaster that has ever been chronicled in the northwest or on the Pacific slope.

The exact nature of the explosion or the circumstances that led to it will probably never be known, since at this writing it is believed that every miner who was working in the slope at the time has perished. It is not definitely known as to the number of men who were in the vicinity of the disaster, but it is believed that between forty-five and fifty men were in the three levels that were affected by the explosion.

Large relief forces are at work and at this time two bodies have been recovered. These men are working nearest the opening and at some distance from the point where it is supposed the explosion occurred.

Most of the men were 1,500 to 2,000 feet further in the slope, and in the immediate vicinity of the accident. There is no doubt either in the minds of the miners or the company's officials, but that every man was instantly killed by the explosion.

**[The mine number was reported incorrectly. The explosion was in mine No. 1.]*

Following is an authenticated list of the men who were at work on the three levels that were affected, and their condition as to being single or men with families:

Thomas Holmes, married	John Foster, wife and baby
Philip Davies, a large family	Thomas Rees, large family
John Rees, son of Thomas	Will Robinson, wife and baby
Robert Graham, wife and two children	George Moses, leaves an orphan son 10 years old
A. Pollard, colored, married	Jack Ferguson, a large family
George Brooks, family at Streator, Illinois	Joseph Worth, Sr., large family
Joseph Ellsworth, Jr.	John Lafferty, single, aged 65, owner of considerable property
Dan McClelland, wife and three children	Richard Forsythe, family
Scott Miles, colored, married	Pruss Luvig, colored, married
Andrew Erllandson, wife and four children	Charles Palmer, wife and child
Eben Olsifer, large family	James Morgan, single
John Danko, Italian, with family	Jake Weatherbee, late mine boss at No. 3, large family

Joseph Browitt, family	Thomas Breden, leaves wife and five children
Harry Campbell, single	James Houston, colored
Joseph Bennett, wife and two children	William Bennett, wife and three children
Mitchell Hale, single	William Penhall, married
Herman Deuster	
Mitchell Roland, large family, brother of ex-Superintendent Roland	
Joseph Ismay, son-in-law of ex-Superintendent Roland	
William Hague, single, only support of mother and crippled sister	
Sidney Wright, brother of County Clerk Thomas Wright, family	
Jack Bone, single, soon to marry a lady at Durham	
Winyard Steele, family. Steele's son was working with his father, but came out last trip and escaped. He was knocked down by the force of the explosion.	

(alternate [reading](#) from Yakima Herald newspaper)

<u>Word</u>	<u>Dictionary Definition</u>	<u>My Definition</u>
<u>surveyors</u>		
<u>coal deposits</u>		
<u>ventilate</u>		
<u>methane</u>		
<u>detonated</u>		
<u>reluctant</u>		
<u>distills</u>		
<u>dilute</u>		
<u>asphyxiated</u>		
<u>coroner</u>		
<u>deficient</u>		

Activity #1: Past and Present Tragedies

Hardships are things that can make life difficult. Sometimes finding a job can be a hardship, dealing with severe weather can be a hardship. Compare hardships from today to hardships from the 1800’s (over 200 years ago!). Then think about tragedies. Tragedies are often one major and terrible event. Tragedies can create more hardships.

<u>Hardships Today</u>	<u>Hardships in Roslyn in the 1800s</u>	<u>Tragedies in Roslyn in the 1800s</u>

Activity #2: Coal Mining:

[American Experience: The Mine Wars](#)

You can also share this video to the students that covers the same event.

Play the [Roslyn Historic Cemetery Tour](#) video from 8:57 to 10:03. Give students a moment to turn and talk with a partner in order to respond to these questions:

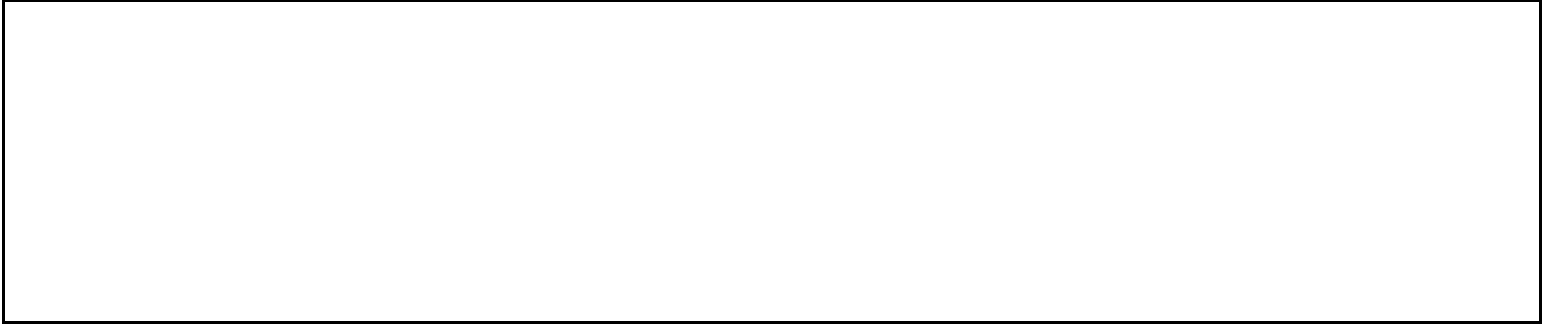
1. What Roslyn tragedy occurred in 1892?
2. How many miners were involved?
3. Two more interesting facts you heard in the video clips.

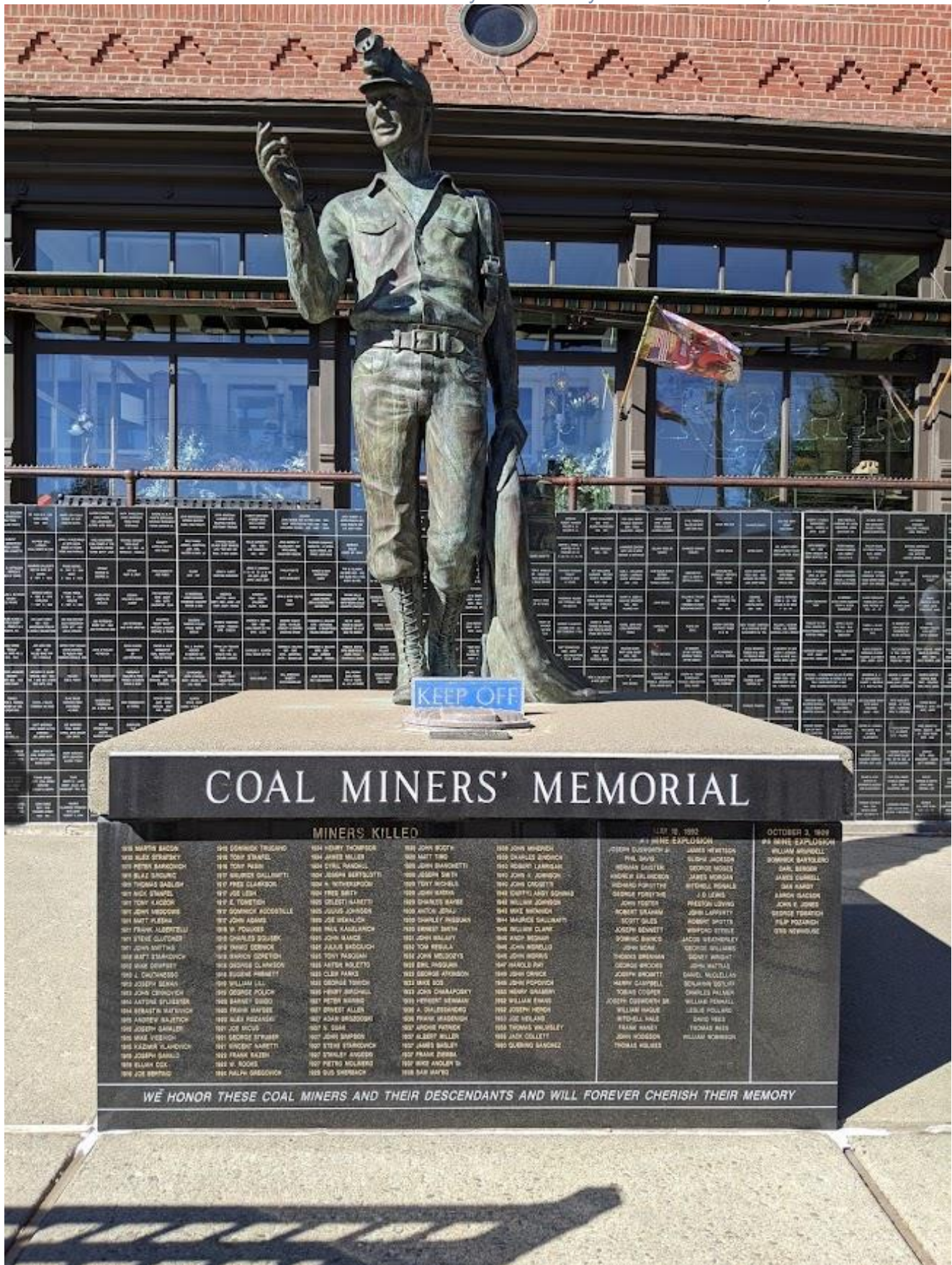
Note:

The second video clip may cause some confusion, as the narrator references another mine explosion that happened in 1909 and killed ten miners. Clarify to students that a number of mine explosions occurred in the Roslyn mines and elsewhere. Inform students that the Roslyn mine explosion of 1892 is the worst coal mining disaster in all of Washington state. Tell students that in general, coal mining was a very dangerous job and contributed to the death of many miners

Activity #3: Gallery Walk

Print off the provided pictures and post them around the room for a Gallery Walk. Have students walk around and look at the pictures. Students can place sticky notes on the pictures and write down at least 2 observations, and 2 questions based on each of the pictures. Once all students have gone around and posted their observations and questions, have them go around one more time and look at all the observations and questions posted by the class. Wrap up with a class discussion.





COAL MINERS' MEMORIAL

MINERS KILLED

188 MARTIN BACON
189 ALEX STRASZYK
190 PETER BARKOVICH
191 BLAY BARKOVICH
192 THOMAS BARKOVICH
193 RICK STAPPEL
194 TOM KACOR
195 JOHN WOODSON
196 MOTT KESNER
197 FRANK ALBERTELLI
198 STEVE GUTCHER
199 JOHN MITCHELL
200 BERT STANOVICH
201 WALK DUFFERT
202 J. CHYCHANSKI
203 JOSEPH BERAN
204 JOHN CHRYCHOR
205 ANTHONY ELLISBER
206 BENJAMIN MATEVICH
207 ANDREW BALUTICH
208 JOSEPH SAMALIN
209 WALK VEBROCH
210 KAZIMIR SLAVOVICH
211 JOSEPH SAMALIN
212 ELIASH COX
213 JOE BERTHO

214 EDWARD TRIGANO
215 TOUF STANIL
216 TOM PAUL
217 WALTER BALLANTYNE
218 FRED CLARSON
219 JOE LEH
220 J. TOMICH
221 FRANCIS KOCOSVILLE
222 JOHN ADAMS
223 W. POWERS
224 CHARLES SQUIER
225 ERNO CONROD
226 BARON DREVENICH
227 GEORGE CLANNON
228 GEORGE PHEMATT
229 WILLIAM LIL
230 EDWARD POLCH
231 ANTHONY ELLISBER
232 FRANK MARSEE
233 ALEX KECANIC
234 JOE BICUS
235 GEORGE STREMER
236 WENDEY SAMETTI
237 FRANK RAZEN
238 W. ROOSE
239 RALPH BRADOVICH

240 HENRY THOMPSON
241 ANNE MILLER
242 CYRIL RANGLER
243 ANNA BERTLOTTI
244 W. WITHERSPROOD
245 FRED BERT
246 SILESTI MARETTI
247 GEORGE JOHNSON
248 JOE DEKALUCH
249 PAUL KAGLANICH
250 JOHN MANICE
251 PHILIP BRADOVICH
252 TONY POGGIANI
253 ANTONIO MILETTI
254 CLAY PANG
255 GEORGE TORICH
256 HENRY BARKOVICH
257 PETER WARRIS
258 ERNEST ALLAN
259 ADAM BRADOVICH
260 J. BARR
261 JOHN BARSON
262 STEVE STANOVICH
263 FRANK RAZEN
264 W. MOORE
265 GUS SHRENBACH

266 JOHN BOFFY
267 MITT TRIG
268 JOHN BARKOVICH
269 JESSIE BERT
270 TONY NICHOLS
271 JOHN KATINA
272 CHARLES BARRIE
273 WYON BOWLIT
274 SHARLEY POGGIANI
275 ERNEST BERT
276 JOHN WALLACE
277 TOM REVELA
278 JOHN MCGOWAN
279 ERIC MCGOWAN
280 GEORGE ATKINSON
281 WALK BOE
282 JOHN CHALMERS
283 WYNEK BERNARD
284 A. GALESHAW
285 FRANK WADENICH
286 ANTHONY PERICH
287 ALBERT MILLER
288 JAMES BARKLEY
289 FRANK DEBBA
290 WALK ANGLER II
291 EAR WATTS

292 JOHN WANDICH
293 CHARLES BROWICH
294 ROBERT LAMBERS
295 JOHN S. JOHNSON
296 JOHN CRIGT
297 EDITH ANDY SCHMIDT
298 WILLIAM JOHNSON
299 WALK WANDICH
300 MAGNUS GALLAGHER
301 WILLIAM CLARK
302 ANDY BROWICH
303 JOHN WISNOLLO
304 JOHN WISNOLLO
305 MARCOLE PAI
306 JOHN CRICK
307 JOHN POGGIANI
308 HENRY GALLAGHER
309 WILLIAM FRANK
310 JOSEPH MARCH
311 JOE WELAND
312 THOMAS WISNOLLO
313 JACK COLLETTI
314 GUBRING BARKOVICH

JULY 21, 1933
#3 WING EXPLOSION
JOSEPH DUBOVICH
PHIL BAY
WENAS BACIKER
ANDREW BARKOVICH
WENAS BARKOVICH
GEORGE FORETICH
JOHN FOSTER
ROBERT DEBBA
SCOTT SALES
JOSEPH BERNETT
BORNING BRONIC
JOHN BARR
WENAS BROWICH
JOSEPH BROWICH
MARRY CLAPPILL
TOMAS COPPER
JOSEPH CRIBBORTH II
WILLIAM HAGUE
WYDALL HALL
FRANK WARRIS
JOHN WOODSON
THOMAS WILLES

OCTOBER 3, 1949
#4 WING EXPLOSION
WILLIAM ANTONELLI
BORNING BARKOVICH
DARK BERBER
JAMES DUBELL
SAM KASBY
BARON BACIKER
JOHN S. JONES
GEORGE TORICH
FLIP POGGIANI
ERNO WENASIK
ALVIN JACKSON
GEORGE MOSES
JAMES WOODSON
WYDALL HALL
J. O. LEWIS
PHILIP LEVING
JOHN LAPPETT
ROBERT SMITTE
WYDARD STRECH
JACOB WENASIK
GEORGE WELLES
SCOTT WENASIK
JOHN WATLIS
DAVID WOODLAW
SOLIMAN BOYCHIK
CHARLES BARKOVICH
WILLIAM KORNALL
LESLIE HOLLAND
DAVID REES
THOMAS REES
WILLIAM ROBINSON

WE HONOR THESE COAL MINERS AND THEIR DESCENDANTS AND WILL FOREVER CHERISH THEIR MEMORY

Explosion Kills 45 Coal Miners in Roslyn

The Tragedy of May 10th, 1892



Paul Fridlund



Amelia Pillsbury
Frances

Thomas Hale

Walter Agnes
Agnes Alice

Washington
Paula Sarah
Albert Layton

Activity #4: Elegy

You will be writing an elegy. To get ready to do so, you will review important vocabulary and look at a poem about mourning and loss.

Vocabulary words to define and consider using in your elegies. Next, add as many words as you can think of that could be good for your elegies.

Hardship	
Tragedy	
Elegy	<u>An elegy is a poem that commemorates or mourns the dead and that many poets have written elegies throughout history for different events.</u>
Explosion	

Listen carefully to this poem, *Providence*, by Natasha Trethewey.

Who or what do you think this poem is commemorating and mourning? Why?

Providence

by Natasha Trethewey

What's left is footage: the hours before
Camille, 1969—hurricane
parties, palm trees leaning
in the wind,
fronds blown back,

a woman's hair. Then after:
the vacant lots,
boats washed ashore, a swamp

where graves had been. I recall

how we huddled all night in our small house,
moving between rooms,
emptying pots filled with rain.

The next day, our house—
on its cinderblocks—seemed to float
in the flooded yard: no foundation

beneath us, nothing I could see
tying us to the land.
In the water, our reflection
trembled,

disappeared
when I bent to touch it.

Your Turn: Elegy

Brainstorm words or ideas that you will want to include in your elegy about the Roslyn Mine explosion.

Write your elegy. You can write in short lines like in the example poem, or in longer lines. The structure is up to you. Be prepared to share your poem with the class.

Activity #5: Family Hardships

Families of miners also faced many hardships. Everyday activities, such as preparing dinner, took much more work and time. The reading from the book, “From Old Country to Coal Country” is one of many accounts of what life was like in early Roslyn. Read the Barich Family account.

Before you read, look up the definition for each of the following vocabulary words.

The Depression	
Ethnic	
Pension Plan	
Alternative	
Convenience	
Hardship	

Barich, Frank. *From Old Country to Coal Country*, Roslyn-Ronald-Cle Elum Heritage Club, Cle Elum, WA, 2005, pp. 22–27.

The Barich Family History

By
Frank Barich

ARRIVAL

Vance Barich, senior, arrived from the Dalmatian Coast of what is known today as Croatia. Pauline Pasquan arrived from the village of Mrkopalj. Both of their citizenship papers showed they were from the Austrian-Hungarian Empire. They were some of the thousands that immigrated prior to and during World War I.

Vance and Pauline met at the boarding house where Pauline was staying with her sister. After their marriage, they settled in the south of Roslyn known as Ducktown. Life was an up and down experience: raising 15 children during the depression and World War II. Vance and Pauline came to America so they could pick money from the trees. What a surprise! There were no trees with leaves of money, only hard work. Sometimes it was “eight” days a week... a comment we often heard at the kitchen table.

THE BACKYARD AND COAL SHANTY

We had a miniature farm. A large garden for spring vegetables to fall vegetables. Potatoes, onions, lettuce, and lots of cabbage for sauerkraut. In one corner of the yard was the chicken coop. Next to that was the pigpen. The coal shed stored both wood and coal to supply the two stoves in the house. One was for cooking, and one for heating the second and third floors. Like most homes, there was a cellar. A place to store the kraut and the wine they made. The coal shed was also used to cure hams and bacon. A block to chop kindling and execute roosters and hens that quit laying. It was a tough place to get the coal and wood in the winter because of snow and ice.

FALL ACTIVITIES

Gathering wood for winter, digging potatoes, butchering the pigs, picking the cabbage and making sauerkraut, order the grapes for wine, sighting the rifles and honing the knives for hunting deer, bear, and elk. We learned many expressions as offspring and helping. For example: You don't kill a cow for a pound of meat! Measure twice before you cut a board. 'You don't know what he's thinking... he has a different head on his shoulders.' 'When you get married, you don't live here anymore.' 'When it's time to go, just go.' 'If you learn to read, you don't have to work in the coal mines.' 'Don't get in trouble with the law and spoil your name or mine, it's the only name you got and it belongs to me too.' 'If you sit down on the job, you will lose it.' There were many more and we'll get to them later.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

When school was out for summer, it was time for ethnic picnics and returning to the Yakima River. "Deep Hole" for swimming, or what we did for many years – "skinny dipping". We had no money for swim suits anyhow!

The ethnic picnics were a ball! Each nationality had a special location along the riverbank from Bull Frog Bridge. The music was great. If you knew how to play the accordion, you could make a lot of money on the weekend...even in the hard times. These picnics were a place to let off steam and enjoy the company of many friends and family. Besides "Steal the Hat", we young people played "Duck on the Rock" simple but fun games. The picnics were also a place to meet people from the three communities of Cle Elum, Roslyn, and Ronald. This was especially good for the young people who you would be classmates with in high school. We could walk to Bull Frog or hitch a ride on one of the several trucks going to the area. The day lasted from day light to dark on the Sunday picnics.

THE JOB

"If you don't know your left hand from your right, keep them both in your pocket."

Coal mines, lumbering, sawmills, and forestry service was the economy. Of course there were lots of farms in the surrounding area, and some farmers generally worked in the mine or mill to supplement their income.

The county also had a few jobs. But you had to vote Democrat in order to get hired, when there was an opening. The state also had a few jobs, driving truck or the snowplow in the winter. Pay was not the best, but you got a good retirement.

Most of our teachers were "locals." They graduated from Ellensburg Normal School. Later on in the '40s and '50s, this changed, although many young people from the area returned to teach in the elementary and high school after graduating from college. After the Roslyn High School closed, students were bused to the old high school in Cle Elum on Second Street. Now, there is a new high school and elementary school between Roslyn and Cle Elum.

The union was a necessary membership. There are many stories that are connected to union activities. Suffice it to say there was more good than bad. Safety became the most important on the agenda. A washhouse was finally provided so the miner could get cleaned up before he went home. Pension plans were finally introduced. Not much in reward for the long years and hard labor, but they received a monthly check; which they would not have, had there been no union. One thing about the people who

worked in the various operating mines, they were proud of their jobs and swapped a lot of stories relating to the days ‘underground.’ Work hard, drink hard, play hard. That’s not a motto... that’s the way it was.

MEDICAL HISTORY

The one and only, who was a legend in our time, Doctor J. P. Mooney. He delivered more children than twenty doctors. Doc Mooney could do anything from setting broken bones, to sewing up eyeballs. The medical bill monthly fee was \$2.00 for each household. The home remedies changed from year to year. Cod liver oil was the favorite cure-all for all ages. It was the god-awful tasting medicine we had to take. At a certain age, generally 8 to 12, you had to have your tonsils removed, whether you needed them out or not. The dentist, Dr. Low, was the last place you wanted to visit. The fillings will last a lifetime. The grinding and the rubber dam (mouth collector) made some of us leave the waiting room before it was our turn.

Mining accidents were always the biggest worry for the miner’s families and there were a lot of them. The ambulance siren brought us out of the house to line up on the highway to watch it go by. Since many families did not have any cars, we had to wait for the police or some neighbor to tell us who was injured or who was killed. That’s when the prayers began, many for – thanks it wasn’t your relation and prayers for the family who lost their father.

HOLIDAYS – CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

Vacation from school started about three to four days before Christmas. Being able to walk a short distance to the outskirts of town, we were able to select our Christmas tree. Generally our older brothers picked out a good size fir and cut the top off because it formed the perfect tree. The highlight of each year, from the time I could tag along with the older boys to the start of World War II, the Roslyn Fire Department and others, had the tallest Christmas tree I remember seeing. It was set before the NWI Company Store. We would stand on our steps, waiting to hear the jingle bells on the sleigh bringing Santa Claus to the center of town. We ran to be in line to receive our bag of goodies, generally an orange and some hard candy.

Then, a week before the activities for New Years Eve, I learned what Hope really meant. “There’ll be better days ahead.” “Last year was lousy, but we made it through.” Life was always going to be better, you wait and see. Those owners of guns came out around midnight and started to fire away. It echoed through Ducktown. Then off to bed we went.

DANCING AND SINGING

There were a number of dance halls in all three communities. Ronald Tavern had live music or a jukebox. Roslyn and Cle Elum enjoyed the Big Band. Several halls had the polka music. Who could possibly forget the Big Band. You got to the Eagles Hall as early as you could. Dancing started at nine sharp. Only one break. Around 11:30 Angelo Sebillia would make his rounds, passing the hat so the band would stay for another hour. The girls lined up on one side of the hall, and the boys on the other side. Funny thing, now that I think of it, we never really dated and took a girl to the dance. It was by happenstance that you got a date either during the dance or for sure land a gal for the last dance. The “Three GI’s” came along to play their own style of dance music. The blue laws finally changed, and we could dance till they got really tired, even if the hat was passed around.

CONCLUSION

There is so much to write of the history of our wonderful community. A people like none other came to make it better than it was. People have moved from the area to many places. In each city or town we have lived in, there was always someone from the upper county to welcome us.

Croatians, Italians, Swedes, Norwegians, Scots, Germans, Chinese, Serbs, English, Blacks, Danes, Hungarians, Russians, and several other nationalities, Irish, Polish, to continue on. These people brought a rich tradition. Loyal to their new land. Can you imagine, thousands never returned to their homes in the old country.

Some did visit later in their older age. But to think, at a young age leaving mother and dad, brother and sister, - never to see them again. An ocean apart. They made sure they did their best to learn the King's English. Becoming an American citizens was one of pride and joy. One gentleman was asked the citizenship question, "When the President dies, who takes over?" "Or course Judge, dat's an easy one, the Undertaker." Mr. Walter Strom, our elementary Superintendent, recalls that teaching the people, to prepare them for the question and answer event for citizenship, were some of his best years spent in Roslyn.

These pioneers from all parts of Europe instilled truth, honesty, hard work, fairness, love of family and pride of your country. Always respect your Teachers. Respect the Law. If you want to go to church, just go. And always aim to leave your place in life a little better than you found it.

Reflection and Discussion Questions

1. What was one thing that surprised you about how families lived during the early days in Roslyn?

2. What was something that you had not already learned about before reading the Barich Family History?

3. What do you think would be the hardest thing to do? Why would it be so hard?

Reflection on Hardships

In the first column, there is a list of conveniences that we enjoy today but that were not available in the early days in Roslyn. For this exercise, write in the second column an alternative for the convenience, with an explanation of how the alternative worked.

Background Knowledge

Men went to Roslyn in the late 1800’s to work in the mines. They lived in tents and shacks until real houses could be built. Later, they sent for their wives and children to travel to Roslyn. Their trips covered hundreds of miles and could take days to complete.

Women were responsible for keeping up the home and raising the children. Many conveniences that we take for granted today were not available in the early days in Roslyn, which meant lots of hardships for the women and children. For example, houses might not have furnaces; fires had to be maintained for both heating and cooking. Women and children had to keep the fires going, which might involve chopping wood and carrying wood and coal into the house.

(example) Furnace	Fireplace or cookstove, which required firewood and coal to be brought in the house and added to the fires.
Airplane	
Bathtub with faucets for hot and cold water	
Bathroom inside the house with sink, toilet, water faucets	
Cellphone	
Computer	
Electric lights	
School Bus	

Wrap Up and Review

Give students some time to think and reflect on today's lesson. Then have students write down or share with a partner

3 important facts they learned

2 questions they still have or would like to learn more about

1 three sentence summary of what they have learned so far about the Roslyn Cemetery

State Standards

SSS1.4.1 Identify the concepts used in documents and sources.

SSS2.4.1 Identify disciplinary concepts and ideas associated with a compelling question or supporting questions that are open to different interpretations.

SSS3.4.1 Draw on disciplinary concepts to explain the challenges people have faced and opportunities they have created in addressing local, regional, and global problems at various times and places.

Essential Questions

- What are hardships and how do hardships today compare and contrast to hardships experienced in the past?
- What are tragedies and how do they compare to hardships?
- How do community hardships and tragedies impact the members of a community and in what ways do communities engage in healing?
- How can reading and writing poetry help people cope with hardship and tragedy?

Essential Understandings

- The mining community of Roslyn faced significant hardship and tragedy, in particular the 1892 mine explosion.
- Coal mining is a dangerous industry that helped build the Roslyn community but also caused great loss to the Roslyn Community.
- Roslyn citizens coped with tragic deaths, in part, by following the burial traditions of their home countries at the Roslyn Cemetery.
- Memorials and poems are two other ways that communities cope with tragedy.

Primary Sources

Photograph of Coal Miners Memorial

Photographs from Washington Rural Heritage website

Secondary Sources

Article from History Link

Roslyn Historic Cemetery Tour video

Teacher Prep

Preview and print all materials needed for this lesson.

Read in full: <https://www.historylink.org/File/8016>