Objectives

Students will:
1. Analyze primary documents for information about the lives of Park City miners at the turn of the century.
2. Assess what life was like for Park City miners based on information from primary documents.
3. Calculate how much a miner’s paycheck purchased.
4. Compare two different lifestyles at the turn of the century.

Student Instruction

Remind students that Thomas Kearns worked as a miner for many years. Ask students: Do you think most miners became millionaires like Kearns? Why or why not? Is it important to know about miners who didn’t get rich? Why or why not?

Tell students they will be detectives discovering what life was like for Thomas Kearns and other men who worked in the Park City mines. They will be looking at evidence—photos, advertisements, letters—about Park City miners at the turn of the century. Their job is to find out as much as they can about the everyday life of miners by examining the evidence.

Brainstorm the types of information about miners’ daily lives students might want to look for (e.g. clothing, types of jobs, work equipment, work conditions, wages, living conditions, etc.)

Distribute one Gather the Evidence Activity Sheet to each student. Break students into five teams. Give each team one group of evidence. Instruct teams to carefully examine their evidence for clues about miners’ daily lives. Students should take notes on their findings on the activity sheet. The evidence is grouped topically, so each team will not be able to find all the types of information listed on the sheet.

Have each group share results with the class. Make a list of all the evidence on the board.
In teams or as a class, calculate how much a miner’s paycheck bought. Using information from the wage sheet, calculate how much a miner made in a week. Use the advertisement for the boarding house to identify how much room and board for a week cost. Ask students to calculate how many days a miner must work to pay for his room and board. Use the clothing advertisement to identify the cost of the clothes a miner would need for work. Ask students to calculate how many days a miner must work to pay for these items.

As a class, discuss what the evidence found by the teams reveals about miners’ daily lives. Ask students: Would you want to be a miner in Park City at the turn of the century? Why or why not?

Student Activity/Product Options

- Students will write a story about two typical days in Thomas Kearns’ life—one day when he worked in the mines and one day after he became a millionaire and lived in the Kearns Mansion. The stories should be based on the clues they have just discovered about miners and the clues they have found in their study of the Kearns Mansion.

- Break students into two groups. Assign one group to write a skit illustrating Kearns’ life as a miner and the other group to write a skit illustrating his life as a millionaire. Have each group perform for the other.

Extensions

- Take a field trip to see the Ontario mine in Park City. Contact the Park City Silver Mine Adventure! at (435) 655-7444 for information on ticket rates and hours.

Links

Lesson 4: What Does Your House Say About You? Pre-Tour
Lesson 12: The Life of a Miner’s Child Post-Tour
Gather the Evidence

Examine the evidence your group has been given and write down the clues you discover about the lives of Park City miners. The categories and questions on the sheet will help you decide what to look for. You won’t be able to answer all the questions from your group’s evidence. Use an additional sheet of paper if you need more room to write.

1. Types of Work
   What different jobs did miners do in the mine? Was it hard work or easy work?

2. Work Tools
   What tools or equipment did miners use?

3. Work Conditions
   What do you notice about the place miners worked? How long did they work each day? How many days each week? Was it safe or dangerous?

4. Wages
   How much did miners earn?

5. Clothing
   What kind of clothes did miners wear? How much did they cost?

6. Living Conditions
   Where did miners live and eat? How much did it cost? What was their housing like?

7. Other
   What else do you notice?

Our group found out that . . .

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
Muckers — Muckers shoveled the ore (rocks with valuable minerals in them) blasted off tunnel walls into ore cars. They had to load at least two ore cars per hour. Muckers had to know the difference between waste rock and the valuable ore. One new mucker remembered that “mucking put blisters on my hands until they were raw and muscle pains in every part of my body that kept me from sleeping.”

Trammers — Trammers pushed the loaded ore cars down a track in the mine to a machine that lifted the ore to the surface. The loaded ore cars weighed one ton. Tramming was one of the first jobs new workers in the mine did. It required a strong back.

Drillers — Drillers drilled holes in the tunnel walls for sticks of dynamite. There were two kinds of drilling—single-jacking and double-jacking. In single-jacking, each miner drilled his own holes using a 4 pound hammer and a drill that looked like a metal pole. It was tricky to hold the drill in one hand, hit it with the hammer, and turn the drill just a little bit between hammer strokes. A single-jacker had to hit the drill 50 times per minute.

Double-jacking took two miners. One man hit the drill with an 8 pound hammer while the other turned the drill between hammer strokes. The two men switched places every minute or so. If the man with the hammer missed the drill, he could crush his partner’s hands, wrists, or arms.

Blasters — Blasters loaded the holes drilled in the tunnel walls with dynamite and set off an explosion. The blasters had to know exactly how much dynamite to use. If they used too much, the explosion could cause the entire tunnel to collapse. If the explosion went off too soon, many miners could be killed. Everyone was happy when the blast went off safely.

Blasting was the last job of the work shift. When the new shift started, the trammers and muckers began moving the rock brought down in the explosion. The drillers started drilling the holes for the next blast.
Dear Father & Mother,

.... This Mining in this Country is to rough a Life for A Man to Stand Long No Matter how Stout he is. It is beginning to wear Me Old already & Ive been as Stout & tough as any person You Ever Saw. ...

You Can Judge it a Curious Country when I tell You I am doing Blacksmithing for a Living at One of the Mines. I thought I Could do Nothing of the kind in the Old Country but in this Country You Must Say You Can do anything. There is No Such thing as Cant do and dont know in this Country. You Must Say You know Everything and Can do Everything. Even if You dont know Your behind from a hole in the grund.

I will be in a better position when I Can farm for a Living. Then I Can go to the Mines in the winter a Month or two and Ill Make More headway then. Ive got to have 325 dollers to get Me a team wagon and harnes, but if I have Luck to Stay at work till Spring I can accomplish it Nicely. ...

J. H. MacNeil

Note: MacNeil was killed in a mining accident at the Daly West mine in Park City in 1903.

Frederick Stewart Buchanan, ed., A Good Time Coming: Mormon Letters to Scotland (University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City, 1988) p. 218-219
Most Appalling Accident

The Kearns Mansion Mystery History Teacher's Guide

PARK CITY, SUMMIT COUNTY, UTAH, JULY 19, 1902

GROUP 2

THE PARK RECORD

PARK CITY, SUMMIT COUNTY, UTAH, JULY 19, 1902

MOST APPALLING ACCIDENT

Thirty-Four Lives Lost Through Explosion of Powder Magazine.

OCCURRED ON DALY WEST 1200

Four Lives Lost in the Attempt at Rescue—Greatest Destruction of Life in History of Park City—Body of Last Victim Recovered This Morning—Full Particulars,
Daly Mine Employees, Park City

GROUP 3
Ontario and Daly Boarding Houses, Park City
New Boarding House

Having completed the addition to my Boarding House, I am now prepared to furnish Board and Lodging at the following prices:

- Board and Lodging, per week, $7.00
- Board, per week, - 6.00
- Meal tickets, 21 meals, - 6.00

My house has been thoroughly renovated and the Furniture is New and Complete. Accomodations first-class in every respect. In addition to regular meals, Cold Lunches will be served within reasonable hours. Give me a Call.

MRS. BOURNE.
The silver mines in Park City ran seven days a week. Every miner had to work six days each week. There were only three holidays when miners didn’t have to work: Christmas, New Year’s Day, and the Fourth of July.

In 1896, Utah passed a law limiting the workday for miners to eight hours. Before, miners worked ten-hour days. Here is a list of Park City miners’ wages:

—1897—

MINERS = $2.75 per day
MUCKERS = $2.50 per day

—1903—

MINERS = $3.00 per day
MUCKERS = $2.75 per day

Compiled by Philip F. Notarianni, Utah State Historical Society
New Store! New Goods!

And Prices that will astonish the people of Park City and vicinity. I take pleasure in announcing to the public that I have opened a complete stock of Clothing, Boots and Shoes, Gents' Furnishings, Hats, Caps, Hosiery, Etc.

Those goods were bought for strictly cash, which enables me to sell them at Remarkably Low Prices.

I am offering for the next thirty days the following goods at a SPECIAL DISCOUNT, and invite the public to call and examine them before making full and winter purchases, as I can save you half the price of everything in my line.

Great Closing-out Sale Prices

AT THE PARK CITY CASH STORE!

All Goods to be Closed Out at Once.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Good Quality Unbleached Shirting</th>
<th>5c</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best Quality Fruit of Loom Muslin</td>
<td>8c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Quality Table Oil Cloth, per yard</td>
<td>15c</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men's 9-oz. Riveted Overall</td>
<td>45c</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys' Bib Overalls</td>
<td>25c</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men's Blue Flannel Shirts</td>
<td>$1.15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men's Heavy Wool Socks</td>
<td>15c</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men's Heavy Miners' Shoes, nailed</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clark's O.N.T. Spool Cotton, 7 spools for</td>
<td>25c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Papers Good Pins</td>
<td>5c</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Everything in Dry Goods, Shoes, Ladies' and Men's Furnishing Goods, Notions, Potteryware and Tinware, will be closed out At Actual Cost Price! Everything at Auction at your own price Every Afternoon and Evening.

Park City Cash Store.

Yours for Trade, JULIUS FRANKEL,
One Door South of Palace Restaurant.