

Teacher Guide to Student Worksheet 1-Image Analysis

Picture 1: Loading Bootleg Coal

Knowing a little bit of background about the artist can sometimes help in deciphering his/her work. This artist was born in Schuylkill County, an area in Pennsylvania known for its anthracite coal. He was the son of a coal miner and showed an early talent for creating art which was strongly influenced by his religious background and church community. When he was a young man living in Minersville, Pennsylvania, he became the apprentice to a European painter named Paul Daubner who came to the area commissioned to create large paintings (murals and frescoes) for several Byzantine churches. This artist helped Daubner who eventually noticed his strength in working in pen and ink and taught him the art of etching.

Resource: "Faces and Places: Coal and prairie: painting the past," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, August 23, 1998, No. 34, Vol. LXVI.

What type of image is this?

Etching

Who is the artist?

N. [Nicholas] Bervinchak

Can you give a guess at the ethnicity of the artist?

Ukrainian

Extra credit: The artist sneaks in some of his personal background in a detail of this image. Can you find it?

The license plate of the truck reads "UOAC." This may stand for Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church (abbreviated UOAC).

When was this work created?

1939—towards the end of the Great Depression

Describe the geology/setting.

The image looks like it is in the countryside. A few tree tops are seen between the wood making up the tipple. The truck looks like it is in a ditch or country road. One wheel looks sunk in the road.

What can the clothing in the picture tell you about the people?

The two men wear long-sleeved shirts, pants, and hats. They look like working clothes.

What are the men doing?

They are loading coal into the truck.

Name some signs that tell you if bootleg mining is dangerous.

It looks physically demanding. The “homemade” tippie looks precarious.

What equipment or tools are being used in the photograph?

The wooden contraption is called a “**tippie**.” It is where the coal is loaded into the truck. One man could be using a **shovel** to place the coal into the truck. The **truck** is being used to transport the coal.

Picture 2: Bootleg Coal Mine

What type of image is this?

Photograph

Who do you think took it? Explain your response.

Most likely someone they knew--maybe the driver of the truck or another coal miner working the bootleg mine. This is based on the relaxed expressions and postures of the miners.

Describe the geology/setting.

It looks to be in the country. Many trees are visible in the background. Several culm piles also are noted—one in the foreground, another behind the truck.

What can the clothing in the picture tell you about the people?

The photo shows workers wearing caps, shirts rolled up to elbows, and pants; one worker wears overalls. The clothing looks dirty from working in the mine.

Name some signs that tell you if bootleg mining is dangerous.

One man leans over perched on the hand-constructed tippie.

What equipment or tools are being used in the photograph?

The tippie and the truck are being used in the bootleg operation.

Picture 3: Bootleg Mine Accident in Shenandoah

Describe the geology/setting.

The setting is outdoors. Trees are in the fore- and background. People are looking inside a mine.

What can the clothing in the picture tell you about the people?

You can tell the role of some of the people. There is a police man dressed in his uniform on the left side of the image. There are also other “official-looking” people: the man in the flat hat standing next to the policeman looks official, as does the man dressed in a white suit and tie right behind him.

You can also tell there are people there from town. They looked dressed up in white shirts as though perhaps they had just been to church.

Name some signs that tell you if bootleg mining is dangerous.

This is a picture of an accident. You can infer that someone is hurt or worse. It looks like the tibble collapsed.

What equipment or tools are being used in the photograph?

None that can be seen.

Picture 4: Lykens Bootleg Mine

Describe the geology/setting.

It is a rocky mountainside. Rocks are scattered about on the ground and form a wall behind the shaft. Starting at the wall, it looks like woods form above it.

What can the clothing in the picture tell you about the people?

A man standing wears dusty overalls and rolled-up sleeved shirt. He looks ready to work.

Name some signs that tell you if bootleg mining is dangerous.

There is a literal sign that says, “DANGER BLASTING.”

What equipment or tools are being used in the photograph?

There is a hand crank/tool, cans [explosive material?], shaft, and barrel on the hillside (right side).

Picture 5: Meeting of Mine Owners

Describe the setting.

Indoor/at an office conference table. Framed picture hangs on wall in background. Papers sit on the table in front of each person, and a glass in front of one owner. Ashtrays are positioned on the table.

What can the appearance of the men in the picture tell you about them?

They are in nicely made suits and ties. They are business men who are probably wealthy.

What are the tools that these men use?

Paper, desk, talk (ideas)

Compare and Contrast the pictures.

List at least three things you can deduce. (Deduce means drawing a conclusion about facts or examples by applying them to a basic principle.)

1. Bootleg mining is a dangerous activity filled with hazards of cave-ins and explosions. If men had the choice to work in a safe environment and make money they would. Therefore, bootleg mining was a way to survive through difficult times.
2. The work environment of the miners and the owners is quite different. (outdoor work vs. indoor work, physical labor vs. white-collar work, dirty work clothes vs. pressed suits, rural area vs. downtown office) The images show a difference in economic class between owner and worker.
3. Because owners were often located in urban areas away from the coal mines, this made it possible to establish bootleg operations out of their sight.
