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## Coal Legend

Girl Scout Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors, Ambassadors

**To complete this patch program, please complete the following:**

- Girl Scout Juniors four *Discover*, four *Connect*, and two *Take Action*
- Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors, & Ambassadors five *Discover*, five *Connect*, and two *Take Action*

### Discover

When was coal first discovered in the United States? Find out what the four types of coal are. What words are used to describe each type of coal? What can you find each of these types of coal in the United States? How many coal-producing states are there?

Learn about how fossils are formed. Make a facsimile of a fossil using clay and a leaf. Find out the basic methods of mining coal. Why are there different methods of mining coal? What tools are used to mine coal? Simulate the mining process using chocolate chip cookies and toothpicks. How many chocolate chips can you “mine” from your cookie?

Research and compare old and new safety precautions taken in underground mines.

What happens to the land after it is no longer mined? What does the term reclamation mean?

How is coal converted into electricity? What does regulating the rate of energy consumption mean? Simulate this using full size graham crackers. Give each girl a cracker. On your signal, have them begin eating and tell them to raise their hand when they are finished. Count the hands raised every 15 seconds until all the crackers have been eaten. Try again only this time, tell the girls they can only take a bite when you say, “Take a bite.” Do this every 15 seconds and have them raise their hand when they have finished. This will show that the overall cracker resources will last longer when told when to take a bite.

### Connect

Visit a coal mining tour or museum. Some to consider are:

- Eckley Miners Village
- Anthracite Museum at Knoebels Amusement Resort
- Lackawanna Coal Mine tour
- Pinoneer Tunnel Coal Mine
- Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum

Research a specific mine. Why type of mining was used? When did mining begin at this location? When the area was last mined? What were some of the challenges faced at this location? How is the land being used now?

Find out what kind of fuel your local utility plant uses. If it is coal, arrange for a field trip to the plant. If it is oil or gas, discuss why that fuel is used instead of coal.

Make a display of coal derived products.

Making coal flowers is a historic craft that was practiced by coal mining families in the late 1800s and early 1900s. (For directions, contact the Program Department at [programdept@gshpa.org](mailto:programdept@gshpa.org).)

Create a short story about a coal camp or mining town in Pennsylvania. What does the word patch mean? Check out the following websites:

*Mine Country* (anthracite coal region history)

<http://www.minecountry.com/homeMine/index2.cfm>

*Black Diamonds* (Pennsylvania's anthracite mining history)

<http://www.pacoalhistory.com/history.html>

*The Coal Region*

<http://www.coalregion.com/home.htm>

Wallace, Anthony F.C., and Paul A.W. Wallace "The Old Country in the New World" *American Philosophical Society* (Pennsylvania coal camps)

<http://www.amphilsoc.org/library/exhibits/wallace/intro.htm>

*Perryopolis, Pennsylvania* (history and pictures)

<http://www.perryopolis.com/coal.shtml>

Answer these questions in your short story:

- When was it built?
- What coal company owned the camp or patch?
- What services in the camps were owned and run by the coal companies?
- What types of coal were mined?
- What ethnic group populated the communities?
- When did the communities flourish? Did the mines stop producing? If so, when?
- What does the community look like now?

## Take Action

Hold a coal legend patch day for a younger Girl Scout troop to help them understand the history of mining.

Interview someone affiliated with coal mining in your community.

Hold a 2-hour “black out” and abstain from using any electricity. Report out what is was like? How did they alter their routine to avoid using electricity?