Step 1. Examine the Evidence

List the following observations for each image or photograph. Describe only what you actually see, taking care to avoid using descriptions that make a judgment about the material.

1. Describe what forms, structures, people you see.

2. List details for the structures and the landscape. For the people, describe their faces, their clothing, and their surroundings.

Step 2. Infer from the Evidence

Take your list of observations and make inferences (logical conclusions from information you know to be true) from what you have written down by attempting to answer the following questions:

1. From what time period is this image or photograph?

2. Where do you think this photograph was taken or this image drawn?

3. Who or what is this image about?

4. What is happening in the image?

Step 3. Prepare for Class Discussion

Read the background information for Activity 1. Use these questions to prepare for Class Discussion.

1. Who immigrated to the anthracite mining region and why?

2. What immigrant groups settled in the anthracite region and how did this change from the first decades of mining to the end of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries?
3. What was the experience like for the first English-speaking mining groups and their families moving to patch villages compared with eastern and southern European immigrants?

4. What were relationships like among the first immigrants (English, Welsh, Irish, German) to the anthracite region and then later among English-speaking and non English-speaking groups?

5. Discuss living conditions in the patch villages. Were there divisions according to people’s economic means, religious affiliation, and ethnicity?

6. Some historians say that in spite of ethnic differences, the overriding culture was one of coal and it served as a unifying force for the working people of the region. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?

**Step 4. Adjust your Inferences**

*Based on the historical information you have read, go back and adjust your inferences for each image. Do not discard your first list. For each image, discuss how the information you wrote down has changed.*

**Step 5. Compare Captions**

*Read the actual captions for each photograph and compare the information you compiled in step 3 with the captions themselves. For each image, list what you described accurately? What was inaccurate?*

**Step 6. Prepare a Presentation**

*Prepare your presentation by answering these questions:*

1. For each image, describe in a couple of sentences how your first descriptions differed from those after you read the background information and the actual captions.

2. Were any ideas you held about anthracite mining or the miners before you saw these photographs and read the background information changed? What was the most significant new information you learned?

3. What questions do you still have that you would like to have answered?

4. What kinds of sources might help you answer the questions you’ve listed above?