



Source 3

Task

- 3a** In source 1, 39 deaths were recorded from causes other than explosions. Does the inspector appear to be concerned about these deaths?
- 3b** According to the inspector, what is the main cause of accidents in shafts?
- 3c** The inspector states that 'falls from stone and coal are also very few'. Do you agree with this statement? Would his view be accepted today?
- 3d** Why was the inspector pleased with the way the owners of coalmines supported the roofs where the miners worked?



Source 3

The Mines Inspector's comments on the deaths recorded in source 1.
(PRO ref: HO 87/53)

The other accidents specified by the schedule, scarcely call for any remark, inasmuch as the vast number of persons (especially Boys) employed at so many different occupations, will naturally with all care taken produce a series of accidental deaths. — — —

The accidents in the shafts are remarkably few, considering the rapid speed, with which the cages are moved, and the great depth of many of the shafts; and it does but prove the excellence with which the apparatus is fitted up and maintained, and the great care taken of the people, at the same time I have frequently had occasion to cause regulations to be enacted, limiting the number of persons to be entrusted upon one rope, for so regardless are the Colliers of danger, that Caution is not to be expected from them. — — —

The deaths from falls of stone and coal are also very few considering the depth at which the Mines are worked, and the constant attention required since the system has been so generally adopted of taking away all the coal; whilst the Roof is necessarily supported in a temporary manner by props; and in justice I must observe that great praise is due to the North Country practice, of the Owners becoming willingly responsible that proper persons are employed to provide, and set the timber instead of putting that responsibility upon the Colliers as done in some other quarters of the Country. — —