

New Internationalist

The people, the ideas, the action in the fight for global justice

Coal in Poland



New Internationalist Easier English

Ready Intermediate Lesson

This lesson:

- Vocabulary
- Reading
- Speaking



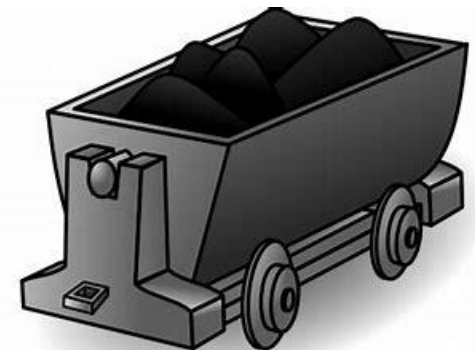
Talk to your partner

What do you know...

(a) about Poland?



(b) about coal?



Match:

- 1) smog
- 2) subsidize
- 3) asthma
- 4) lung cancer
- 5) dementia
- 6) inefficient
- 7) judiciary
- 8) calculate
- 9) mask

- a) to help by the government giving money
- b) use maths to find an answer
- c) the law courts
- d) smoke and fog together
- e) lung disease which makes breathing difficult
- f) illness with damage to the brain
- g) not working very well
- h) disease in the lungs

i)

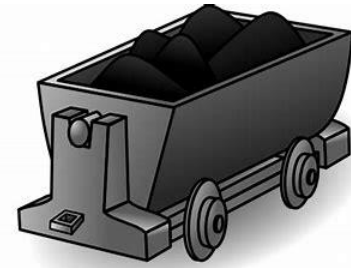


Poland Quiz



- 1) Poland is (a) between Germany and Belarus (b) between Germany and the Czech Republic (c) between Belarus and Ukraine**
- 2) The capital of Poland is (a) Krakow (b) Warsaw (c) Katowice**
- 3) The population of Poland is about (a) 38 million (b) 18 million (c) 58 million**
- 4) The currency is (a) the Euro (b) the Yen (c) the Zloty**
- 5) The first pope from Poland was (a) Paul VI (b) John Paul II (c) Benedict XIV**

Coal Quiz



- 1) Coal is (a) a fossil fuel (b) a renewable fuel (c) a green fuel**
- 2) Coal comes from (a) plants that lived millions of years ago (b) chemicals in a factory (c) lava from volcanoes**
- 3) People call coal (a) black dust (b) black gold (c) black gas**
- 4) Coal is (a) only brown (b) only black (c) brown or black**
- 5) Coal produces (a) only electricity (b) only gas (c) electricity and gas**

What do you think? Then read to check

- 1) Polish people worry about coal in winter. Yes/no?**
- 2) In some parts of Poland there is more pollution than in Beijing. Yes/no?**
- 3) 45.000 people die every year from the effects of coal. Yes/no?**
- 4) Poland has most of the worst polluted cities in Europe Yes/no?**
- 5) Which of these are caused by coal (a) heart problems (b) breathing problems (c) early death (d) mental health problems**

When Polish people say they are worried about the winter, it is not only the terrible cold they fear. It is the six months of smog from the burning of coal for their home heating.

Some areas are more polluted than Beijing, with about 45,000 deaths in Poland each year from air pollution. A report by the World Health Organization says the country has 33 of the 50 most polluted cities in the European Union.

Air pollution is linked to asthma, lung cancer, heart problems, breathing problems, birth defects, early death, delays in mental development in children, Alzheimer's, and dementia.

With the pollution from cars, industry, and energy production, inefficient coal-fired home heating furnaces also help to make the smog.

Put these in the correct part of the article

- (a) to cut greenhouse gas and to use other forms of energy including cleaner energy, and to use less coal**
- (b) Support from the big coal industry made sure**
- (c) when the southern city of Skala beat Beijing's air pollution record**

And in 2016 the UK Financial Times newspaper said Poland is ‘the continent’s capital of smog’ (1)

This led to more pressure by the EU for Poland (2)

_____ . This with world coal getting much cheaper and increased production costs, is a problem for the subsidized Polish industry – and jobs.

About 100,000 Polish jobs are linked to coal. (3)

_____ that the national-conservative Law and Justice party won the 2015 election with a promise that coal would remain the main energy source for the country.

True or false? Read to find out

1) People are very happy to wear masks when they go to work.

2) Poland's health minister thinks that cigarettes are more dangerous than the smog.

3) Poland and the EU agree on most things.

So many people often think that moving to cleaner energy is ‘un-nationalist’ and that it is an idea from the left and from ‘unpatriotic’ parts of society. Wearing a filter mask often makes others angry. People often laugh at people who wear masks to work and very few people want to discuss the problem.

Konstanty Radziwiłł is health minister and last year he tried to say smoking and not air pollution was the cause of the health problems. His idea did not work as people calculated the effects of smog in terms of cigarettes. Activist group Polish Smog Alarm said breathing Krakow’s air each day is like smoking 4,000 cigarettes a year, or about seven cigarettes a day. This includes children as the effects of air pollution do not depend on age. They also say that smoking is a personal choice but breathing polluted air is not.

The 2018 UN Climate Change Conference will be in Katowice, in Poland in December, and so the country is going to have disagreements with the EU on many issues, such as refugee numbers, its control of the independence of its judiciary, and its environmental and climate policies

Speaking

**You are a newspaper
photographer. Tell your partner...**

***Where* you took the photo**

***Who* is in the photo**

***Why* you took the photo**

Winter wind blows from a coal-fuelled electricity plant, making clouds of smog, while a woman visits the city's cemetery.



A woman in a filter mask walks past demonstrators protesting in the Polish capital of Warsaw against government action.



An elderly resident in Poland's southwest, keeps herself warm with the her coal-fuelled furnace – still often used in Poland.



Patrick (right), an athlete with his friends with a filter mask in Katowice.



Eva Ciesielska, 39, uses a nebulizer on her 9-year-old daughter Zoe in their apartment in Krakow.



Homework

Read the original article:

https://eewiki.newint.org/index.php?title=Problems_with_coal_in_Poland

You are the newspaper photographer. Choose three photos and write about where you took them, who is in the photos, and why you took them.