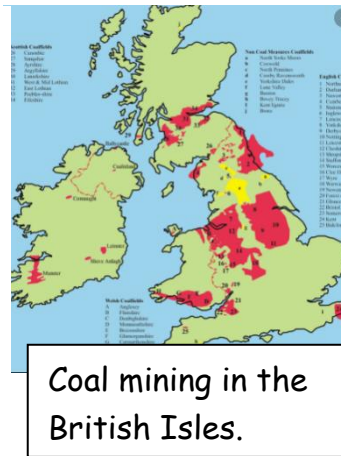


# Why Is Mining Important In Rugeley?

Coal is sedimentary rock formed hundreds of millions of years ago. It is in layers deep underground called seams. It is burned and was an extremely important fossil fuel used to power steam engines, iron and steel works, factory machines and railways. It is also burned to heat homes and to cook.



1. Plants that lived 300 million years ago (before dinosaurs) in swamp forests died. The energy that they stored gave coal its energy.
2. Water and dirt buried the dead plants.
3. Over thousands of years, pressure and heat built up on top of the plant remains. This pushed out the oxygen and turned the remains into coal.



Lea Hall Colliery, a huge mine, was opened in Rugeley in 1960. It closed in 1991.

