

Name:

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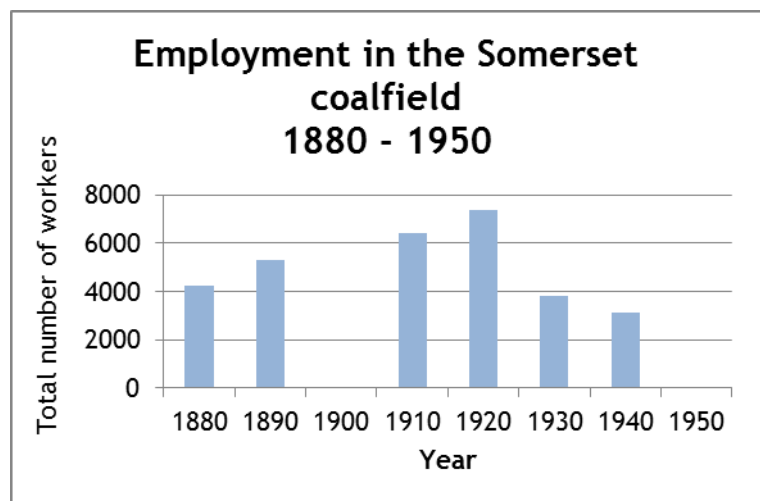
Coal was discovered in Radstock in 1763 and the Somerset Coal Canal was built to connect to the Kennet and Avon Canal. This allowed coal to be transported to London and the south of England.

In addition to miners underground, the coal mining companies also employed workers above ground. These workers also included men in office jobs.

	Below Ground	Above Ground	Office workers etc.	Total
1880	3,508	757		
1890	4,562	741		
1900	4,640	862		
1910	5,437	991		
1920				7,387
1930	3,110	625	107	
1940	2,522	614		3,136
1950				2,800

Pupil activities

1. Complete the five missing totals for the last column.
2. Complete the graph below by adding the totals for 1900 and 1950:
3. When was the biggest fall in the total number of workers?
4. Write a sentence to explain why the total number of workers, employed in the Somerset Coalfields, was always changing.



This resource is one of a group of resources for KS1,2 and 3 on the subject of the Somerset Coal Canal and coalfield.

More information from the [Somersetshire Coal Canal Society](http://www.somersetshirecoalcanal.co.uk).

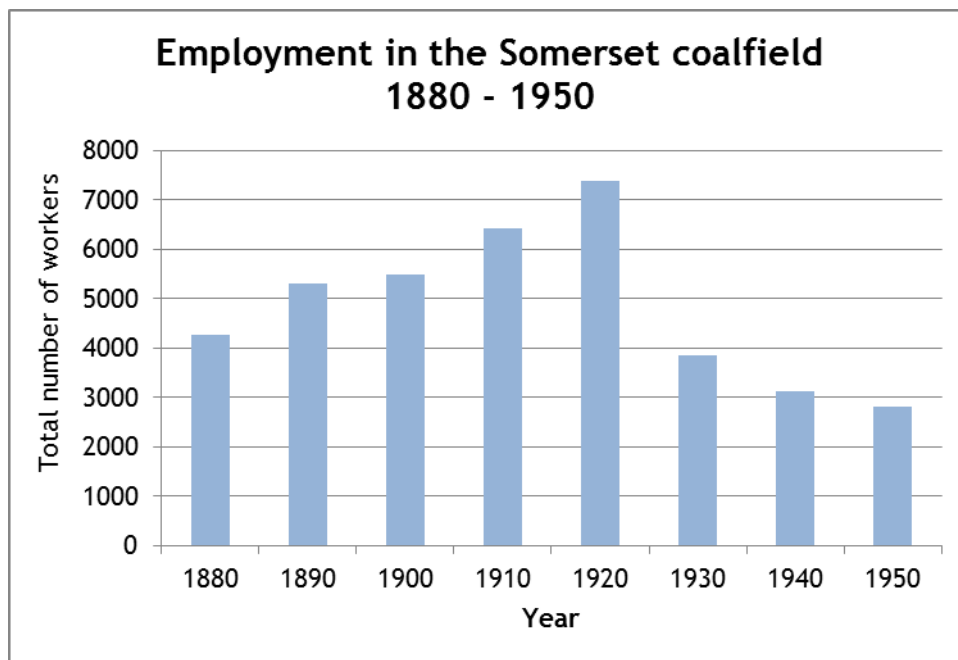


Answers

1. Statistics are not available for the 'blanks'. The missing totals are shown in red below:

	Below Ground	Above Ground	Office workers etc.	Total
1880	3,508	757		4,265
1890	4,562	741		5,303
1900	4,640	862		5,502
1910	5,437	991		6,428
1920				7,387
1930	3,110	625	107	3,842
1940	2,522	614		3,136
1950				2,800

2. The totals for 1900 and 1950 are added to the graph below:



3. The largest fall of 3,545 was between 1920 and 1930.

4. The 1920s were a time of major recession throughout the world. The demand for coal was reduced in the UK and the workers of the Somerset coalfields experienced considerable unemployment. Parallels might be drawn with the recent financial crisis and recession.