American Experience: Mine Wars

1. Who is Mother Jones? Why was she in the coal mining town?
2. What was the purpose of the union movement?
3. What Constitutional/Democratic rights are contained in the union movement?
4. What was the legal age of work in West Virginia?
5. How were coal miners paid? How much were they paid?
6. What were some “positives” of coal mine work?
7. Why was coal important? What did coal do for industrialization?
8. How many men in the U.S. were in coal mining?
9. How many in West Virginia?
10. Why was coal mining in West Virginia attractive to African American southerners?
11. How were mining towns segregated?
12. Describe the conditions in a “company town” owned by coal mining operators.
13. What was “script”?
14. What happened when the miners were given raises?
15. Who was the most powerful mine operator in the region?
16. What made it difficult for mine operators to make a profit?
17. Who were the Baldwin-Felts Detectives?
18. Who did the courts usually rule in favor of? Private Property owners/operators or workers?
19. How did the mine owners break the strike in 1903?
20. What were the dangers miners faced?
21. How did mine owners block safety legislation from passing?
22. What demands did the Union make in response to the deadliest mine disaster?

A.

B.

C.

1. What did Miner’s do when their demands were not met?
2. How did the governor of West Virginia end the strike?