

Miners' institutes or '*stutes* were cultural centres for miners. They were popular in mining communities in Britain in the late 19th and 20th centuries. This short film is about The Oakdale Institute in South Wales, which is now a museum.

Do the preparation task first. Then watch the film and do the exercises below to check your understanding. You can read the transcript at any time.



Preparation: matching

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–h next to the numbers 1–8.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1..... picture house | a. a board on a wall with information about things for people to see |
| 2..... velvet | b. a game played with cards with pictures or numbers on them |
| 3..... pop case | c. a place in the ground where coal is found |
| 4..... noticeboard | d. a cinema |
| 5..... billiards/snooker | e. someone who is not refined or elegant |
| 6..... cards | f. a soft, thick material |
| 7..... pit | g. a box that holds bottles of soft drink |
| 8..... rough | h. a game played by two people who hit coloured balls on a table into holes on the edge of the table with a stick called a 'cue' |

1. Check your understanding: ordering

Write a number (1–8) to put the places described in the film in the correct order.

- The reading room
- The front door
- The billiard hall
- The picture house
- The toilet
- The games room
- The library
- The office

2. Check your understanding: multiple choice

Circle the best answer.

1. The people who went to the 'Stute were ...
 - a. poor.
 - b. rich.
 - c. going to work.
2. The office ...
 - a. was big and light.
 - b. had information about events.
 - c. was full of books.
3. The reading room ...
 - a. was where men played cards.
 - b. had a big noticeboard.
 - c. was big and very light.
4. What did men do in the games room?
 - a. Watched films.
 - b. Played dominoes and cards.
 - c. Played ball games.
5. The female narrator's father ...
 - a. always bought a newspaper and took it to the 'Stute.
 - b. never bought the newspaper, but took it home to read from the 'Stute.
 - c. never bought the newspaper, but read it at the 'Stute.
6. When he was a child ...
 - a. the male narrator's family wanted him to have a good education.
 - b. the male narrator hated going to the library.
 - c. the male narrator never borrowed books from the library.
7. The billiard hall ...
 - a. was where men talked about things.
 - b. was always very quiet.
 - c. had seven lovely tables.
8. Children ...
 - a. were not allowed into the billiard hall.
 - b. were allowed to play snooker.
 - c. had to be a certain height to play snooker.
9. What is not true about the picture house?
 - a. Men and women watched the films.
 - b. A woman played the piano during the films.
 - c. It burned down while people were watching 'Phantom of the Opera'.

10. At the picture house the female narrator liked watching ...
- a. actors such as James Mason and James Cagney. b. romantic films. c. ugly actors and action films.

Discussion

Are there any cultural centres like the 'Stute where you live?

I have ...

I don't have ...

There is ...

There are ...

Vocabulary Box

Write any new words you have learnt in this lesson.

Learner Reflection

What did you learn from watching this video and doing these exercises?

What I learnt ...

What I enjoyed ...

What I didn't enjoy ...