

What is a kiln?



A kiln is a large oven used for baking, burning or drying different materials. The kilns on the Black Mountain were used to burn limestone.

Limestone is rock which can be found in the Black Mountains.

When limestone is burnt at a very high heat it turns white and is then known as quicklime.

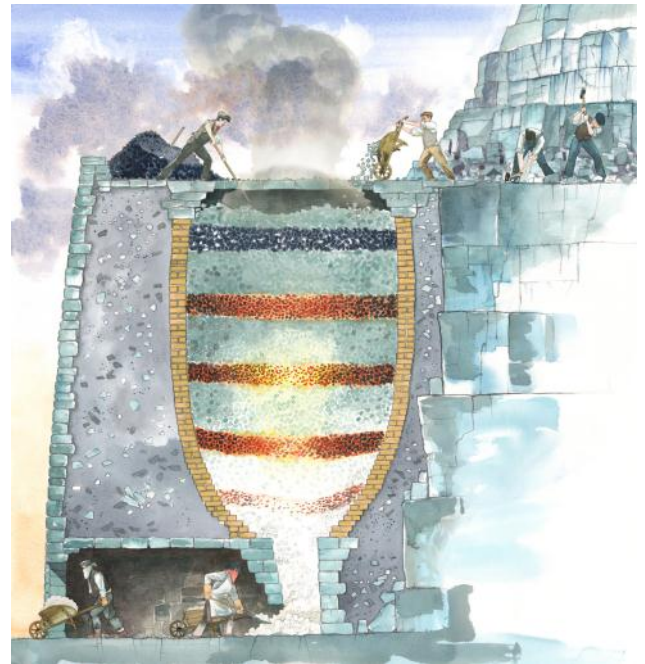
Quicklime spread on farmers fields can help crops to grow.

How does a kiln work?

This kiln is called a draw kiln. It works by layering the fuel for burning (coal) and the limestone rock which is going to be burnt.

Then a fire is lit at the bottom, as the layers burn through, more layers are added at the top. At the bottom the burnt quicklime is taken out carefully.

Once the kiln is lit it can be kept burning for weeks at a time.



Questions

1. What happens to limestone in a kiln?
2. Why does the kiln need to burn for weeks at a time?
3. Why is making lime important?

