Activity 1
1. Get the students to read the instructions first.
2. Let the students discuss the meanings of ‘mine’ in pairs or small groups.
3. Monitor closely then stop the activity and elicit feedback.

Suggested answers: ‘Mine’ can mean a bomb (e.g. landmine), a site for excavating something from the ground (e.g. a coal mine) or it can be used as a possessive pronoun (‘It's mine, not yours!’)

Activity 2
1. Get the students to do this exercise individually before checking in pairs...
2. Monitor closely then stop the activity and elicit feedback.

Answers: 1. miners  2. mine  3. a goldmine  4. landmine  5. to mine  6. mining  7. minefields  8. mine  9. a mine of information

Activity 3
1. Get the students to read the questions through first and deal with any vocabulary questions that arise.
2. Do question one together in open class to get the ball rolling.
3. Let the students begin their conversation in pairs or small groups.
4. Monitor closely then stop the activity and elicit feedback.

Activity 4
If your students don’t have access to computers in the classroom, set this for homework.


Quick Quiz
Read the clues below and write the solutions on a piece of paper. Then take the first letter of each answer and rearrange them to find a word connected with this month’s Talking Point subject: ‘Mines’.

1. The name ‘Grime’ comes from the name of the Anglo-Saxon god known as ......GRIM......
2. Nearby is the town of ......MILDENHALL....., where a fabulous hoard of late Roman silver tableware was discovered in a field in 1942.
3. Also ......NEARBY..., at Woodbridge in Suffolk, is the site of the Sutton Hoo Ship Burial.
4. It is clear from these finds, and many others in the surrounding area, that this particular part of England has been ...INHABITED... continuously for thousands of years and has a very rich history.
5. Grime’s Graves is different from the other sites because it is the only one where visitors can actually go down a mineshaft and visit the prehistoric mine ....ITSELF....
6. ........NEOLITHIC.... tools have been discovered at the site which show that the miners used deer antlers to help them dig into the chalk and deer shoulder bones as spades.

Answer: MINING    M for Mildenhall [2], I for Inhabited [4], N for Nearby [3], I for Itself [5], N for Neolithic [6], G for Grim [1].

Activity 5
This activity can be set as homework to be followed up and consolidated in a future lesson generating more discussion. What did most students feel about the question? What reasons were put forward in each case? Did the students read anything which changed their minds on the topic? (etc.)