

Nikiszowiec - an industrial residential district

WORKSHEET

Task 1

The Nikiszowiec residential district was constructed in the years 1908-1919 for:

- a) miners employed in a nearby mine shaft called "Carmer",
- b) managers of the "Giesche" coal mine.

Task 2

The district was named after:

- a) the surname of the mine manager, who had made the decision to build it,
- b) the name of a nearby mine shaft, Nikisz.

Task 3

The manager of the "Georg von Giesches Erben" Concern, Anton Uthemann, employed the architects from Charlottenburg (near Berlin), who designed – among others – the Nikiszowiec residential district and the mine buildings.

What were the names of these German architects?

Task 4

What was Balkan? Underline all true information:

- a) narrow-gauge railway used for transporting coal from the mine to the steelworks in Szopienice,
- b) a free means of transport for the mine employees,
- c) a free means of transport for the inhabitants of Giszowiec, Nikiszowiec and Szopienice,
- d) a tram connecting neighbouring towns.

Task 5

Nikiszowiec was supposed to be self-sufficient. Which every-day facilities could be found within the district? Circle the correct answers:

pharmacy – hospital – public bath – laundry – mangle – pigsties –

school with teachers' apartments – church – theatre – police station – shops –

inn – bowling alley – guest house – yeast cake and bread ovens.

Task 6

The residential district consists of family apartment houses constituting (how many?) small districts.

Each small district had about 165 flats in buildings of (how many?) floors.

Each building consisted of 12 flats. Each flat had a kitchen and two rooms: a living room and a bedroom.

There was a toilet on each landing between floors. Men usually took a bath on the mine premises, while women and children could do so in situated at the main square.

Each yard had a bread oven, where women baked and

Each flat also had a pigsty, where the miners could keep

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A characteristic element of the district's architecture are (underline the correct answer):

red brick walls / grey plasterwork
and the window frames painted *green / red*.

On the walls you can often see the miner's emblem, which is:

cap and miner's lamp / crosswise miner's hammers

Task 7

The church is an important building in Nikiszowiec. Who is its patron saint?

One of the most important events in Nikiszowiec in the church fair which takes place on the first Sunday after July 26th.

On the wall surrounding the church you can see the "Pro Memoria" art gallery, commemorating (underline the correct alternative):

all the churches of the Nikiszowiec parish ,

the church builders,

the Giesche-Janów-Wieczorek miners who lost their lives in the mine.

Task 8

At the Main Square there is a characteristic building of an old inn, with a mosaic with a plant motif corresponding to the motifs of the Silesian regional costume. What is this motif?

You can find here a famous photolab called "Niesporek". It was founded by a miner of the Giesche mine, who used to take photos of the miners' families. Traditionally, each family had their photo taken on the following six occasions:

christening,, starting school, First Communion,, funeral

The Main Square is the place where a lot of events take place, such as festivals and fairs.

Task 9

Underline the correct sentence:

- *The Nikiszowiec residential district is situated on the Industrial Monuments Trail*
- *It is considered to be a pearl of Silesian architecture*
- *It has been recognized as the UNESCO World Heritage Site*
- *It has been recognized as the History Monument*
- *It is an ethnographical park*
- *It is still inhabited, mainly by present and former mine employees.*