



6 THE SMELTER: FIRST DAYS & IMPRESSIONS

A young man began working in heavy industry as a labourer for the first time. The massive structures and machinery, the heat and danger, the physical and emotional effort needed to complete the work all left an impression on him. In this account, he describes his first days in an enormous copper smelter complex.

SOME VOCAB

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| 1) | to raise some Hell | <i>They were proper respectable citizens who went to Las Vegas once a year to raise a little Hell.</i> |
| 2) | goo | <i>Some kind of white goo came out when he squeezed his zit.
When we were kids we used to like playing with chemistry sets which allowed us to create weird types of gooey substances.</i> |
| 3) | to brush (against st/sb) | <i>She gently brushed against him as she passed by.</i> |
| 4) | to dip st / a dip | <i>Just dip your biscuit in quick like this.
It's hot today. We're going to the lake for a quick dip.</i> |
| 5) | to scurry (around) | <i>My friend and I lifted the rock up and watched the ants scurry around.</i> |
| 6) | sloppy / to do st sloppily | <i>She sloppily ate her cereal.
He's pretty sloppy. Maybe ask somebody else, somebody who's more careful.</i> |

LEAD-IN QUESTIONS

- A mine is where you take out deposits of ore which are basically rocks. They are sometimes taken to a mill where they are ground into smaller rocks or a powder form. The next step is the smelter where they are heated up in big furnaces to a few thousand degrees, changing the substance into liquid form. This liquid is then moved to different places in the smelter in big pots where it is attempted to extract a more pure form of one or more of the metals. The work is hot, dirty and dangerous.
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| 1 | What are some common injuries that might occur there? |
| 2 | Why would some people actually like working in such an environment? |