

Lorena Camacho Rodriguez

Dr. Lyndell O'Hara

HIS113:NOA World Civilization I

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Film & Response: Worst Jobs in History, Roman and Anglo Saxon Era

1) We have learned that wind power, water power and, most of all, muscle power were the means by which jobs were done. How do you see these elements conveyed in this film?

The element that was conveyed overall was muscle power and a great deal of it was used for living and surviving during this period. From this film you are able to see that being a non-elite meant living a hard life of work from sun-up to sun-down and sometimes through the night as in the life of the monks or the coal makers. Wind and water power were seen mostly in the life of Vikings because they were the group that traveled the seas in this time period from the worst jobs that were reflected in this film.

2) The film is about "worst jobs" - which of these do you consider the "worst of the worst" and why?

The truth is that all the jobs shown in the film were horrible and I would have hated to do any of them, but for me it would have to be the mine worker. It was dangerous, hard, and tiresome labor in extreme weather. The Summers were hot and Winters were cold. The fumes, low lighting, and poor ventilation meant that the miners were risking their lives every time they went in and to make things worse, they were most likely treated terribly. Working hard and in these conditions must have been horrible but to add physical, mental, and emotional abuse, I'd rather collect eggs from the cliff.