

# Terramin Australia Angas Zinc Mine Visit

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of August two people from the "There's more to it than you think" team came into our Year 10 science class to talk about how science and maths can get you into all these jobs that we may not have considered yet. They talked to students on camera about what jobs they would like to do when they leave school, what they think about science and maths, and what it's like to make career decisions. They also helped us film entries for their Ultimate Workplace Visit competition.

A couple of days later I got an email saying that I had won the competition. This was great news.

My teacher and I went to the Terramin Australia zinc mine on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September. On arrival we were shown to the briefing room where we met, Anya, who is the Environment & Community Relations Coordinator at the Terramin mine, Alyssa from "There's more to it than you think" and Emma from the South Australian Chamber of Mines & Energy .

We had a long presentation on site safety, and then met three of Terramin's employees: a Metallurgist named Ben who works with the machinery that grinds up the rock, a Mining Engineer named Andrew who determines where to place the explosives underground in order to best extract the minerals, and Tom the Geologist who looks for what they want to extract. They really loved their jobs.

Then we got dressed in all the safety gear, including goggles and a hard-hat, but all necessary. We then went down into the mine itself, in utes driven by Tom and Andrew. It was very wet, but we were wearing huge protective boots. When we reached level 120 (this is what they called it, in feet) we went to see the explosive holes being drilled and positioned by a team already at work. Then we went down to the next level to see how the explosives were going to deliver what was required.

Once we had seen where the minerals come from and how they are extracted, Ben gave us an explanation of the separation process, which involves removing the dirt from the zinc and lead. This was quite interesting; it is a long process which involves crushing rocks and use of chemicals to extract the mined minerals. This is all regulated by computers and project managers from a control centre which is next to the aforementioned machinery.

Coming to the end of the tour, we saw the final product in a big shed. The zinc and lead were in separate piles in the corner, ready to be shipped off for export. That then concluded the tour.

Fast Fact 1: Terramin Australian has another mine in Menninni on the Eyre Peninsula and they mine zinc, lead and silver.

By Alex

Thanks to all that were involved.