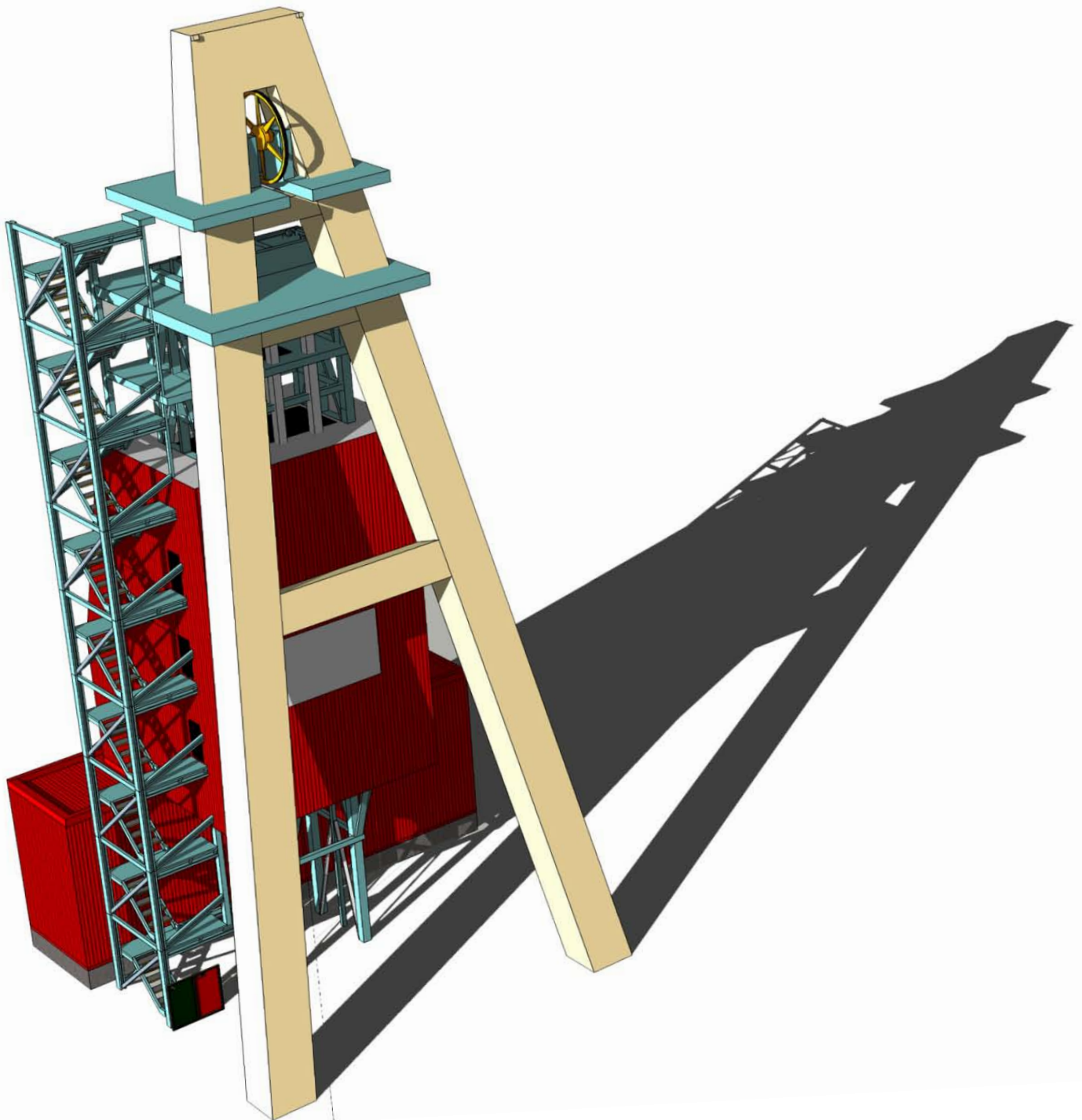


# ***WHAT IS DOWN THERE?***

**BEACONSFIELD MINE & HERITAGE CENTRE EDUCATION ACTIVITY**



## Background:

Since 1877, gold has been mined from the Tasmania Reef, a thin sheet of quartz which dips into the earth's crust beneath the town of Beaconsfield. Like the tip of an iceberg, the headframe and mine yard visible on the surface are just a small portion of the mine.

Burrowing into the earth through shafts and adits for 37 years, from 1877 to 1914, the historic mine reached a depth of 450 metres. Closed for 85 years, it reopened in 1991 and now reaches a depth of 1200 metres beneath the surface.

## Activity:

What do you think the underground network of roads and shafts and infrastructure is like? How does the mine operation reach the quartz reef containing the gold, and how do they bring it to the surface? What equipment might they use underground? How do they get that equipment down there? How would the modern operation differ in size, complexity and technology from the historic one?

View the mine site surface, situated within the town of Beaconsfield at Google Maps:  
<http://g.co/maps/whfu3>



Draw or use the headframe and lift cage images on these pages on a blank sheet of paper. Individually, or in groups, draw and describe what you imagine the underground mine to look like. On your tour of the Heritage Centre, the underground mine will be described, a static model will show the historic workings and the *Tasmania Mine Holographic Experience* will provide footage and 3D schematic plans of the modern mine's extent.

Compare this with your drawings and ideas. How close were you?

