

Child Labour in Early Industrial America

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This lesson explores the child labour force during the Gilded Age in America. The lesson describes the social history of the working class during the late 19th, early 20th century in America urban centers. Students will examine the labour force of this period through primary source analysis of Lewis Hines photographic journalism exposing child labourers.

Overview

Subject: History

Intended Audience: Highschool history class

Duration: 80 minutes

Lesson Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Characterize the living and working conditions of the working by writing fictional backstories to historical photos
- Analyze in writing 1 historical photograph of child labourers in industrial America with a partner.

Materials:

- Lesson slides
www.emayhew.com/pdf/child-labour-slides.pdf
- Accompanying primary source analysis worksheet, made available to students. This worksheet can be collected and used for optional assessment.
www.emayhew.com/pdf/child-labour-worksheet.pdf
- Primary source image file; 1 photo made available to students.
www.emayhew.com/pdf/child-labour-primary-sources.pdf

Instructional Sequence

5 minutes Begin class with daily class maintenance (attendance, check in with students)

30 minutes Proceed with class slides. Follow slide instructions.

30 minutes Give students the accompanying worksheets and one photo to analyze from the photos in the primary source package. They can work in groups or individually to answer the analysis worksheet.

15 minutes In the slides, allow students to share their analysis as the slides present each historical photograph in the primary source package.