

Child Labor in America

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5th Grade Social Studies

Overview of the Lesson (brief summary)

There was a time when 10-year-olds didn't always attend school. In some cases, they dropped out of school to help support their families. Child labor was a by-product of the Industrial Revolution. Lewis W. Hine and the National Child Labor Committee struggled for many years hoping to end this exploitation of children. Hine traveled across America visiting factories and documenting the plight of young children forced to work.

TEKS/TAKS

5.4F – Explain how industry changed the American way of life

5.25D – Identify different points of view about an issue or event

5.25A – Use primary sources to acquire information about the United States

Objectives: The learner will

- Analyze posters created by the National Child Labor Committee**
- Identify the intended audience for child labor posters**
- Identify key words and ideas presented in a poster which make it effective**

Time Required 1- 2 45-minute class periods

Materials Needed: Children of the Early 1900s and NCLC Exhibits PowerPoints

Computer and projector

NARA Poster Analysis Worksheet

Copies of the posters in the NCLC Exhibits PowerPoint

Procedure

- **Show the Children of the Early 1900s PowerPoint. Tell them all these children have a secret and ask them to pay special attention to the pictures to figure out the secret. When you preview the show in outline view you can read the information about the children's ages and what they are doing. The secret -- all the children in these pictures have jobs. Ask the students what they think about young children working. I've found that many of mine are jealous because they think these children are keeping the money they earn. Record students' responses on chart paper.**
- **Introduce the exhibits and the NARA Poster Analysis Worksheet. Select one poster to display on the screen to model the process. Then, give students a copy of a second poster to analyze in small groups. After the groups finished analyzing the poster, have them share their findings. Select 5 additional posters which will be placed in various areas of the room. The groups will take turns analyzing all 5 posters. After the groups have completed the assignment, have them share their findings.**

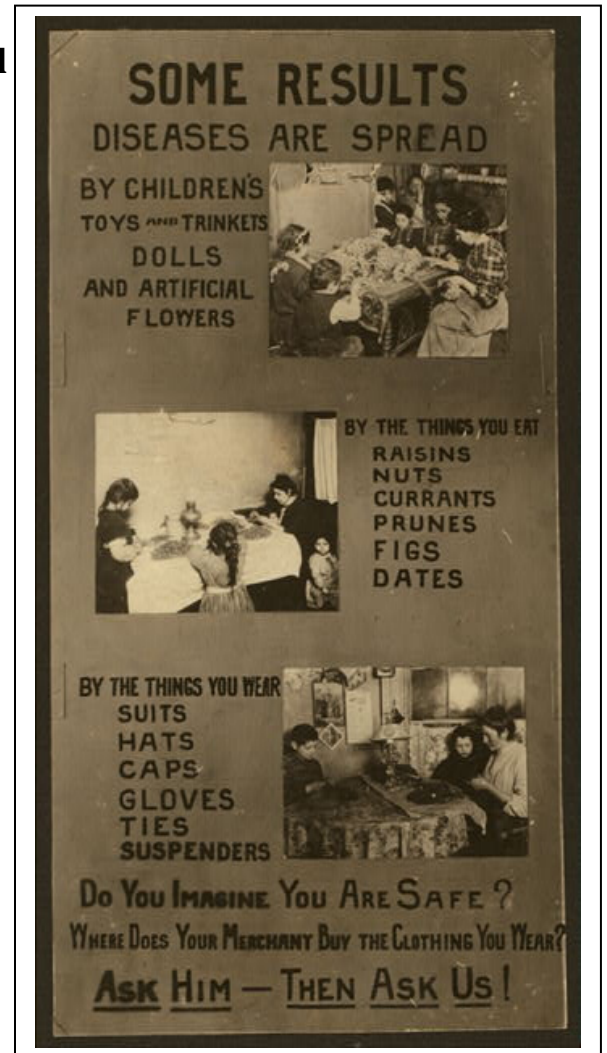
All Documents found at the Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division <http://memory.loc.gov/pp/pphome.html> in the National Child Labor Committee collection

- **Informal assessment:** Review the chart that listed the students' ideas about child labor. Make additions and changes based upon what they have learned by reading the posters.
- **Formal Assessment:**

Use this poster and your knowledge of Social Studies to answer the following question.

What audience was the author trying to reach with this poster?

- A. Congressmen who could change the laws regarding food and sanitation.
- B. Parents who have their children work at these jobs.
- C. Children who work at the jobs.
- D. Customers who buy these items at the store.



Answer: D

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