

Unit Template

Sources on Child Labor

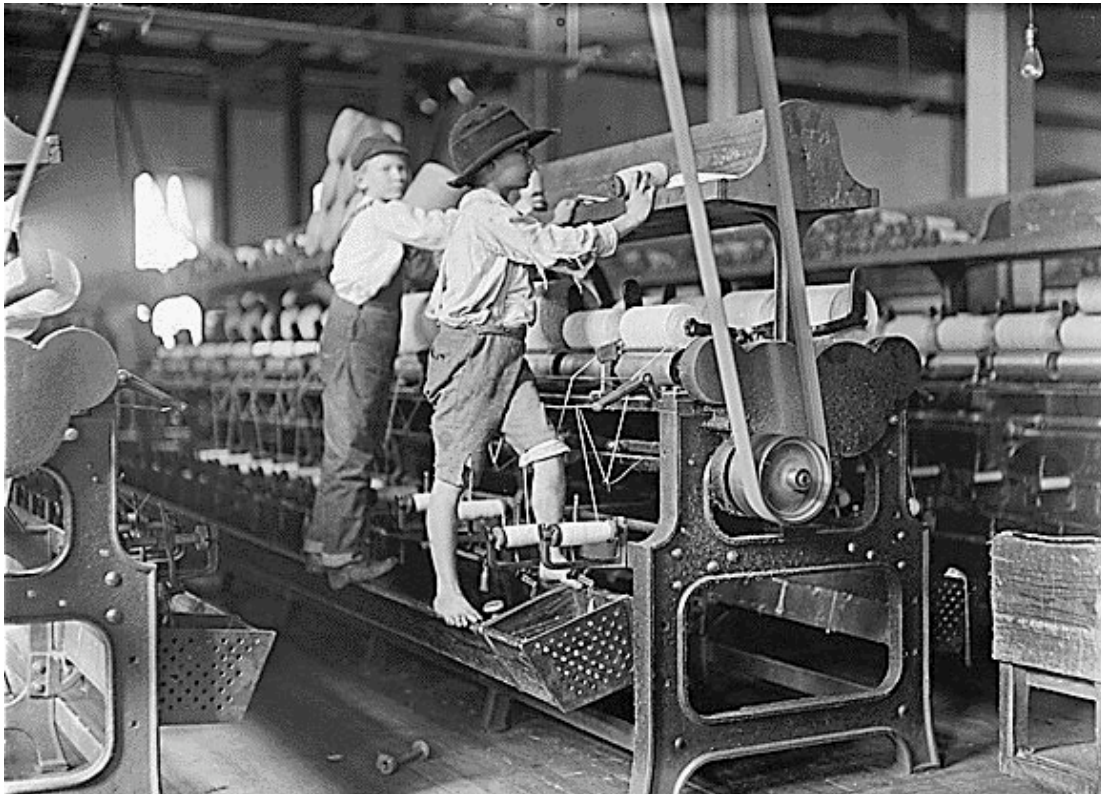
See the website below for background and biography of Lewis Hine. Also go back and check the timeline.

1. See Lewis Hine's photos of child labor in America, 1908-1912

Go to <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/pp/pphome.html>

Read about Lewis Hine and go to his photos of

- The Mill



Some boys and girls were so small they had to climb up on the spinning frame to mend broken threads and put back the empty bobbins. Bibb Mill No. 1 Macon, Ga.

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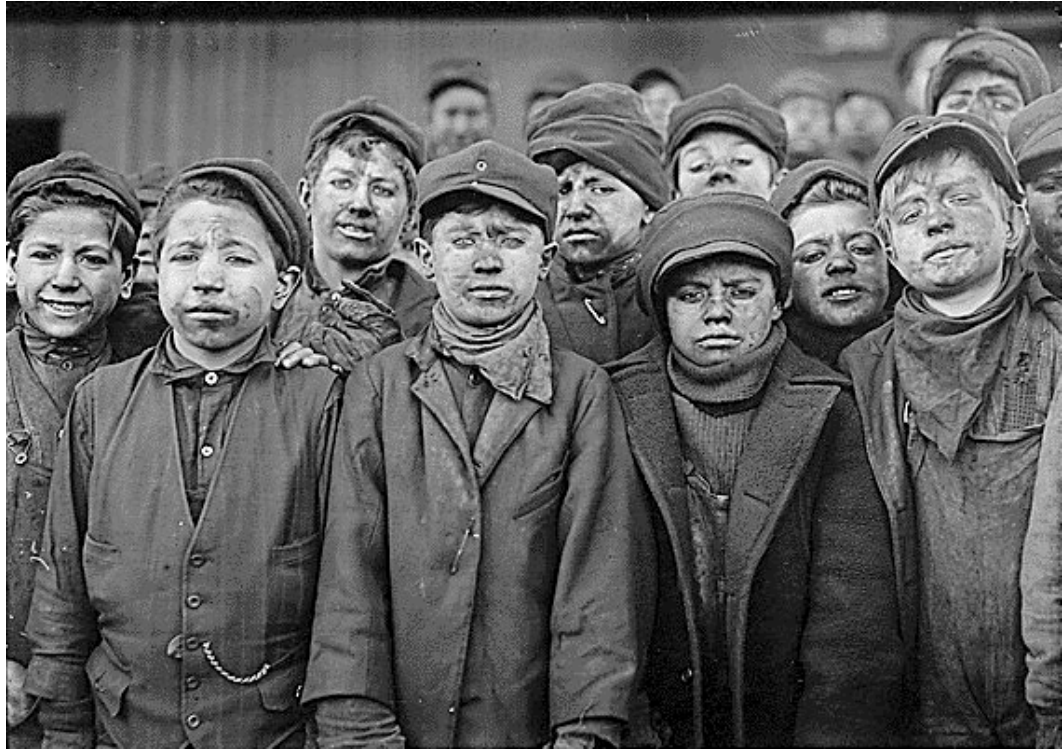
The overseer said apologetically, “She just happened in.” She was working steadily. The mills seem full of youngsters who “just happened in” or “are helping sister.” Newberry, S.C.

➤ Miners



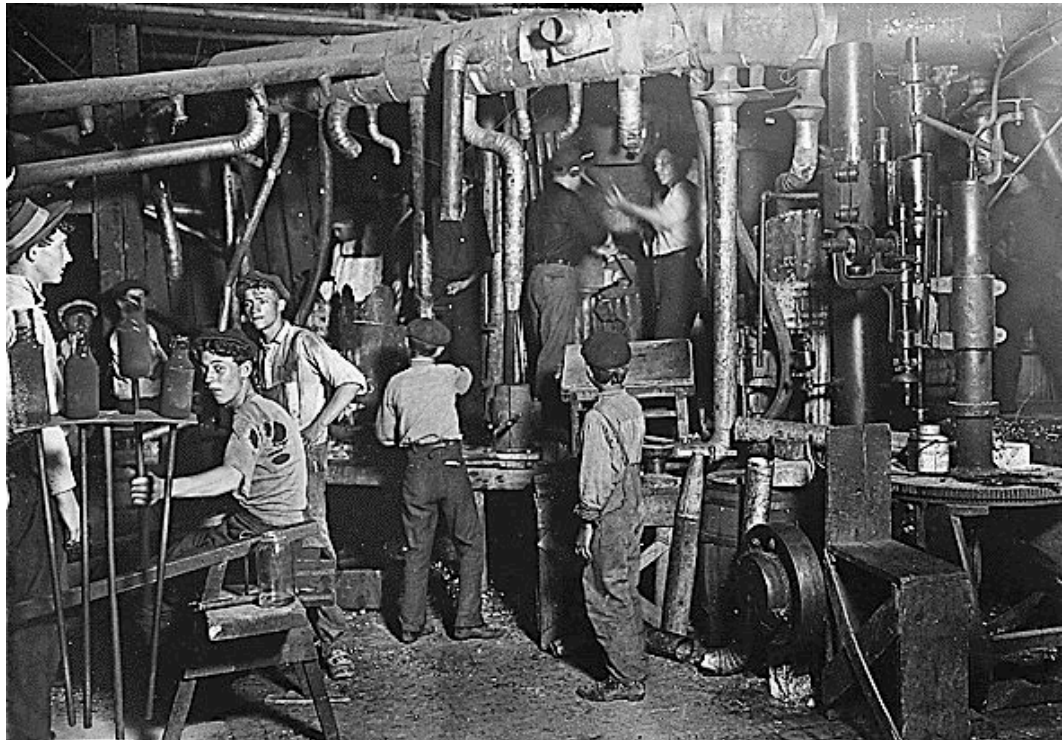
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View of the Ewen Breaker of the Pa. Coal Co. The dust was so dense at times as to obscure the view. This dust penetrated the utmost recesses of the boys' lungs. A kind of slave-driver sometimes stands over the boys, prodding or kicking them into obedience. S. Pittston, Pa.



Breaker boys. Smallest is Angelo Ross. Pittston, Pa.

- The factory 9 p.m. in an Indiana Glass Works.



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Young cigar makers in Engelhardt & Co. Three boys looked under 14. Labor leaders told me in busy times many small boys and girls were employed. Youngsters all smoke. Tampa, Fla.

2. Excerpt from John Spargo's *The Bitter Cry of the Children*
<http://historymatters.gum.edu/d/5571.html>

No Rest for the Weary: Children in the Coal Mines

*Probably the most influential and certainly the most widely read of the Progressive-era exposés of child labor was John Spargo's *The Bitter Cry of the Children* (1906). Spargo was a British granite cutter who became a union organizer and socialist and gained his formal education through extension courses at Oxford and Cambridge. In 1901, he emigrated to the United States and in the following excerpt, Spargo described work at the coal breaker, the area outside the mine where coal was sorted and graded, mostly by young children.*

Work in the coal breakers is exceedingly hard and dangerous. Crouched over the chutes, the boys sit hour after hour, picking out the pieces of slate and other refuse from the coal as it rushes past to the washers. From the cramped position they have to assume, most of them become more or less deformed and bent-backed like old men. When a boy has been working for some time and begins to get round-shouldered, his fellows say that "He's got his boy to carry round wherever he goes."

The coal is hard, and accidents to the hands, such as cut, broken, or crushed fingers, are common among the boys. Sometimes there is a worse accident: a terrified shriek is heard, and a boy is mangled and torn in the machinery, or disappears in the chute to be picked out later smothered

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and dead. Clouds of dust fill the breakers and are inhaled by the boys, laying the foundations for asthma and miners' consumption.

I once stood in a breaker for half an hour and tried to do the work a twelve-year-old boy was doing day after day, for ten hours at a stretch, for sixty cents a day. The gloom of the breaker appalled me. Outside the sun shone brightly, the air was pellucid [clear], and the birds sang in chorus with the trees and the rivers. Within the breaker there was blackness, clouds of deadly dust enfolded everything, the harsh, grinding roar of the machinery and the ceaseless rushing of coal through the chutes filled the ears. I tried to pick out the pieces of slate from the hurrying stream of coal, often missing them; my hands were bruised and cut in a few minutes; I was covered from head to foot with coal dust, and for many hours afterwards I was expectorating some of the small particles of anthracite I had swallowed.

3. From Jane Adams work at Hull House in Chicago [Information to be added about the photos and when and why they were taken.]

See photos:

- Where should children play? Two very different examples



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➤ Art education for children



Website: <http://www.uic.edu/jaddams/hull/urbanexp>
Click “images”

Background information about Jane Addams (from Foner, Eric and John A Garraty, eds. *The Reader's Companion to American History*, pages 11-12)

Jane Addams (1860-1935), settlement house founder and peace activist. She was one of the most

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distinguished of the first generation of college-educated women, rejecting marriage and motherhood in favor of a lifetime commitment to the poor and social reform. Hull House was a model for settlement work among the poor. Addams responded to the needs of the community by establishing a nursery, dispensary (pharmacy), kindergarten, playground, gymnasium, and cooperative housing for young working women. Addams always insisted that she learned as much from the neighborhood's residents as she taught them.

She and other Hull House residents sponsored legislation to abolish child labor, establish juvenile courts, limit the hours of working women, recognize labor unions, make school attendance compulsory and ensure safe working conditions in factories. When the Progressive Party adopted many of these reforms in 1912, she seconded the nomination of Theodore Roosevelt for president.