

Lesson 2: Children at Work: A Look into the Past
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AHTC Summer Institute: 2008

Abstract:

In this lesson students will analyze photographs and cartoons related to the issue of child labor.

Essential Questions/Enduring Understandings:

- What do the photos of Lewis Hine illustrate?
- What emotions are tied to photos of children at labor?
- How do cartoons comment on social issues?
- How do primary sources enrich our understanding of history?

Assessment:

The students will complete a document analysis form for both a photograph and a cartoon. They will also complete an exit slip about the value of primary resources.

Setting the Purpose:

Students will analyze photographs of child labor by the famous Lewis Hine and think about their emotional response to them. They will also analyze cartoons to see how they offer a different perspective of the issue. They will use this experience with primary sources to discuss the legal aspect of child labor in the next lesson.

Duration:

One class period.

Procedure:

Part 1: Building Background

- Display the chart of work that students dictated in the previous lesson.
- Ask students if they know of other kinds of work that children might have done in the past (child labor).
- Briefly discuss why children were allowed to perform these types of labor.

Part 2: Photo Analysis

- Put students into pairs and give each student a Photo Analysis Form.
- Give each pair of students a copy of a Lewis Hine photograph to analyze by answering the questions on the sheet.
- Photos are available at:
 - [Library of Congress: National Child Labor Committee Collection](#)

Part 3: Cartoon Analysis

- Hand out one Cartoon Analysis Form to each student.
- As a large group, respond to each section of the form for one of the cartoons suggested in Child Labor Cartoon Choices,
- If time is available, briefly analyze other cartoons about child labor.

Part 4: Exit Slip

- In the final few minutes of the class, hand out the Exit Slip for students to complete.
- Collect the exit slips from the students as they leave the class.

Analysis of Primary Sources:

Students will use two document analysis forms to respond to the primary sources in the lesson.

Attachments:

- Photo Analysis Form
- Cartoon Analysis Form
- Child Labor Cartoon Choices
- Exit Slip