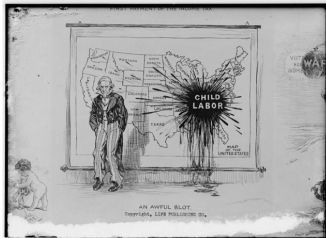


Assessing with Primary Sources

Grade Level: Middle School (Grades 6-8)

Standard(s) or Objectives: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.5
Analyze in detail the structure of a specific paragraph in a text, including the role of particular sentences in developing and refining a key concept.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.6
Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints.

Library of Congress Resources:



“The Awful Blot”
Cartoon (1914)
Lewis Hine child labor photo collection

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/ncl2004000340/PP/>

Topic Background:

Founded in 1904, the National Child Labor Committee set out on a mission of "promoting the rights, awareness, dignity, well-being and education of children and youth as they relate to work and working." Starting in 1908, the Committee hired Lewis W. Hine, first on a temporary and then on a permanent basis, to carry out investigative and photographic work for the organization. The more than 5,100 photographic prints and 355 glass negatives in the Prints and Photographs Division's holdings, together with the often extensive captions that describe the photo subjects, reflect the results of this early documentary effort, offering a detailed depiction of working and living conditions of many children--and adults--in the United States between 1908 and 1924. The NCLC distributed the photographs as part of its publicity and educational efforts.

Excerpted from: <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/nclc/background.html>

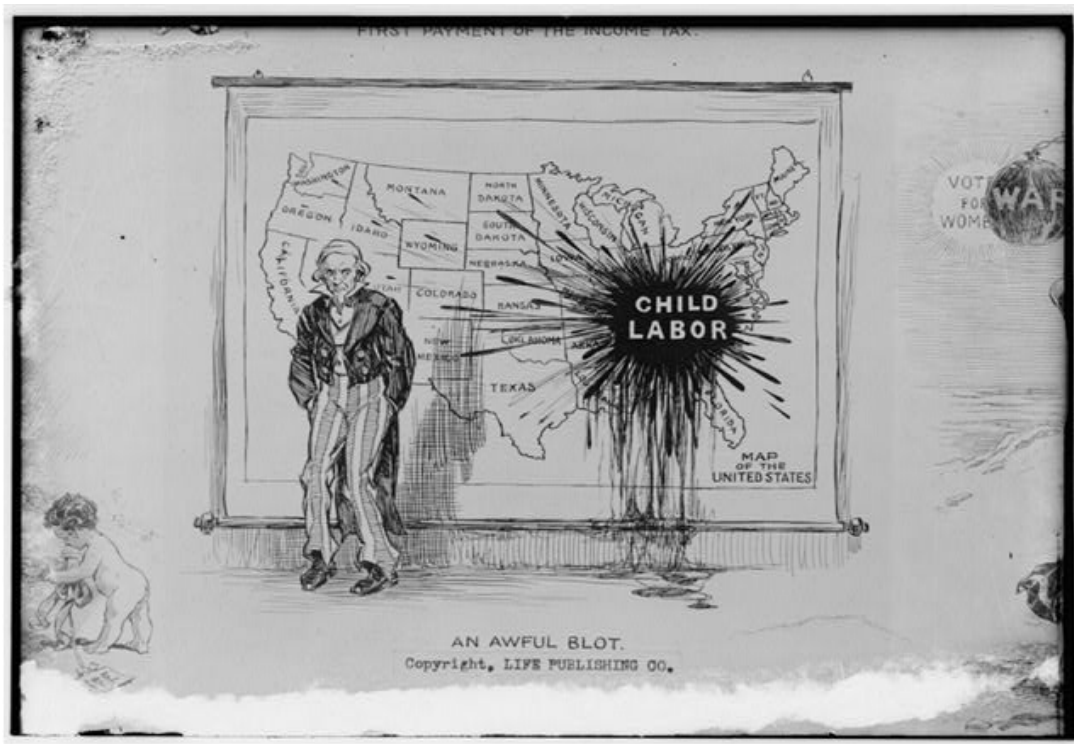
Source(s) Used:

The source used for this assessment is an editorial cartoon created by Lewis Hine in 1914. Mr. Hine is best known for his photographic documentation during this time period, but he also created many editorial drawings and cartoons. This drawing is entitled “An Awful Blot.”

Multiple Choice Answer Key:

Question 1 – A
Question 2 – D

“An Awful Blot”



Questions:

- Based on the details created in the drawing, which statement best summarizes the author's point of view? (CCSS.ELA.RI.8.6)
 - The occurrence of child labor has left a permanent stain on the image of a country that was once seen as pure and good.
 - The ink blot represents the mess that child labor and the fights about the issue have created for future generations to clean up.
 - The focus on child labor has distracted the country from bigger issues, such as war and women's right to vote.
 - The mighty power of the United States is shrinking due to this child labor mess, much like Uncle Sam appears to be shrinking inside of his baggy clothing.
- How does the inclusion of the small child in the left corner help to develop the central idea of this drawing? (CCSS.ELA.RI.8.5)
 - The lack of clothing on the child is a reminder that we, as a nation, are not properly caring for our children.
 - The innocence of the child is being protected by facing them away from the central focus of the drawing.
 - The innocent, peaceful nature of the child balances out the violent nature of war, which is depicted in the opposite corner of the drawing.
 - The presence of the child, in such a simple, innocent form supports the goal of banning child labor.