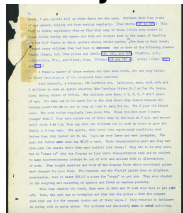


Teaching with Primary Sources Assessment

Grade Level: Middle School (6-8)

Standard(s) or Objectives: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary specific to domains related to history/social studies.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.8: Distinguish among fact, opinion, and reasoned judgment in a text.

Library of Congress Resources:



Lewis W. Hine, "Child Labor in the Canning Industry of Maryland." 1909
<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/static/data/nclc/resources/images/canneries3.pdf>

Specific page used: Page 2

Topic Background:

In the early decades of the twentieth century, the numbers of child laborers in the U.S. peaked. Child labor began to decline as the labor and reform movements grew and labor standards began improving. These changes increased the political power of working people and other social reformers to demand legislation regulating child labor. Union organizing and child labor reform were often intertwined, and common initiatives were conducted by organizations led by working women and middle class consumers, such as state Consumers' Leagues and Working Women's Societies. These organizations generated the National Consumers' League in 1899 and the National Child Labor Committee in 1904, which shared goals of challenging child labor, including through anti-sweatshop campaigns and labeling programs. The National Child Labor Committee's work to end child labor was combined with efforts to provide free, compulsory education for all children, and culminated in the passage of the Fair Labor Standards Act in 1938, which set federal standards for child labor.

Excerpted from: <http://www.socialwelfarehistory.com/programs/child-labor-reform-an-introduction/>

Source(s) Used:

The source used in this assessment includes an excerpt from an investigative report by Lewis Hine in July 1909. Lewis Hine was one of several investigators working for the National Child Labor Committee who prepared reports on labor conditions and their impact on the lives of workers, generally concentrating on a particular industry or region. The NCLC records in the Library of Congress Manuscript Division contain approximately 65 reports, about 30 of which were authored by Hine. Hine inserted into his reports references to the photo numbers of images that illustrate his points. Frequently, photo captions make note of an associated report.

Excerpted from: <https://www.loc.gov/collections/national-child-labor-committee/articles-and-essays/reporting-on-labor-conditions/>

Answer Key:

Question 1: C

Question 2: D

Lewis W. Hine, "Child Labor in the Canning Industry of Maryland." 1909

Excerpt

John Meishell, a Bohemian, 830 Hartford Ave. Baltimore, went, with wife and 5 children to work at oyster shucking (for Peerless Oyster Co.) at Bay St. Louis, Miss. during winter of 1907-8. The children were then, - 1, 3, 6, 8 and 9 years of age. The baby had to be cared for in the shed where they worked because the company permitted no one to stay at home to care for it. The 3 year old helped some. The rest worked regularly (see photo 824. These children were 2 years younger than.) They were routed out of their beds by the boss at 3 A.M. and worked until about 4 P.M. They say that the children had to work in order to give the family a living wage. The agents, that hired them represented conditions much better than they turned out to be. Wages were lower and were irregular. The most the father made was \$6.00 a week. Their transportation paid and they had free rent (in shacks where they were huddled like sheep.) They had to be very careful to "stand in" with the Company or lose their transportation back and be subject to many inconveniences; perhaps be out of work and evicted with no alternatives of work. They bought supplies and food of the Company Store where exorbitant prices were charged for poor food. The Overseer and the Sheriff jailed them on slightest provocation, when it meant \$25.00 a piece for "costs" to get out. They were cheated in the weighing and measuring of oysters and fired on various pretexts.

Questions:

- 1) In line 9, Hine uses the term "living wage." Which of the following best describes the meaning of "living wage"? (CCSS-RH6-8.4)
 - a. Income that does not adequately support a family.
 - b. Income that must be supplemented with work from home.
 - c. Income that adequately supports a family's basic needs.
 - d. Income that is supplemented by child labor and wages.

- 2) Read the following sentence from lines 10-11: "The most the father made was \$6.00 a week." Which claim from the article is best supported by this sentence? (CCSS-RH6-8.8)
 - a. "The baby had to be cared for in the shed where they worked because the company permitted no one to stay at home to care for it."
 - b. "The Overseer and Sheriff jailed them on slightest provocation, when it meant \$25.00 a piece for 'costs' to get out."
 - c. "They were cheated in the weighing and measuring of oysters and fired on various pretexts."
 - d. "The agents, that hired them represented conditions much better than they turned out to be. Wages were lower and were irregular."