

Child Labor

Through A Child's Eyes

Subject: History/ Visual Arts/ Mindfulness

Grades: 6-8

Skills:

- primary source analysis
- writing
- interpretation
- visual analysis
- emotional awareness/mindfulness
- inference

Materials:

- Attached worksheet

Summary:

Much of history is told through the eyes of adults. In the Unit on Child Labor, we share photographs by Lewis Hine who, as an adult, captured children going or leaving work. Lewis Hine was a little different though... he was forced to help sustain his family's finances by going to work as a young man. After his father died when he was 18, he took his firm job working in a factory for 13 hours a day, 6 days a week. He earned \$4 a week.

Using Hine's images in the Unit, look at them for what they are: primary source materials that allow you to see first hand, the children working in the mills of Maine in the 1860s.

Discuss:

- What do you think these children are thinking or feeling?
- What do you imagine that might be dreaming about?
- What job do you think they do inside the mill? Could you work a job in a mill?

Instructions:

Using the various worksheets, look at the images and write a caption for each. Imagine yourself as a historian with the opportunity to describe what the images mean. Now, write a caption for each image. The caption should be only one sentence and should capture what you feel the child represents, expresses, or may be feeling.

Through a Child's Eyes

Caption these images of child mill workers in Lewiston, Maine. They were all taken by photographer Lewis Hine, in between 1909 and 1911.

Name: _____

Date: _____



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Through a Child's Eyes

These images are of child workers all across the United States. They were all taken by photographer Lewis Hine. Write a caption for each.

Name: _____

Date: _____

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