

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Child Labor Webquest

Child labor goes back to beginnings of humankind. Children have always been expected to help meet the family's needs. Before the Industrial Revolution, children worked under the guidance of their parents on farms, in their homes, or in artisan workshops.

The Industrial Revolution changed the way people work. Families began to leave their homes to work in factories. With long hours, harsh discipline, and little concern for safety, the work was often dangerous and sometimes deadly.

Many people believe that the exploitation of child labor is now a thing of the past. But is it really? You will compare child labor practices during the Industrial Revolution with those of today.

**PART I Directions:** Follow the steps below to answer the questions.

Go to <http://socialstudies.com/worldhistory.html>

Click "**The Industrial Revolution: the Winners and the Losers**".

Look under "**What Were Working Conditions Like during the Industrial Revolution?**"

Click "**Modern History Sourcebook: Tables Illustrating the Spread of Industrialization**" and read the tables to answer questions 1-3.

1. By how much did the pig iron industry (Table 4) in the UK grow between 1781 and 1914?
2. By how much did the railroad system in the UK (Table 6) grow between 1840 and 1900?
3. By how much did the cotton industry (Table 5) in the UK grow between 1834 and 1913?

Return to <http://socialstudies.com/worldhistory.html>

Click "**Child Use or Abuse during the Industrial Revolution?**"

Click "**Child Labor in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century**".

Follow links from this page to answer questions 4-8. **Do not worry about learning every detail** but scan through and read enough information from the various biographies, eyewitness accounts, and descriptions to respond well.

Start with **Life in Factories**

*Read "Working Hours", "Punishments", and "Accidents".*

4. What conditions do you believe were abusive, cruel, or unjust in these factories? Be specific.

Scroll down to **Tactics and Issues**

*\*Read "Short Time Committees" and "Factory Inspectors".*

5. What strategies were used to improve the lives of children in factories?
6. Do you believe the tactics went far enough in improving conditions?

Scroll to **Supporters of Child Labor**

*\*Read at least three of the options to answer the questions below.*

7. What various reasons do factory owners give for using child labor or at least not supporting legislations to limit it?

8. Do the arguments make sense? Is child labor necessary?

PART II: Child Labor Today

Visit the following websites to fill in the table.

<https://www.techinasia.com/report-evidence-samsung-supplier-child-labor-china/>

<http://www.theguardian.com/technology/2013/jan/25/apple-child-labour-supply>

<http://www.foodispower.org/slavery-chocolate/>

| Website | Date | Evidence of Exploitation | Numbers of Children Involved | How the problem relates to me |
|---------|------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
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