

What is Child Labour?

Lesson Title: What is Child Labour?	Grade: 6	Subject: Social Studies	Time: 1 hour	Unit: Resources and Wealth; Power and Authority	Topic: Child Labour	Cross-Curricular Components:
URL: http://www.teachervision.fen.com/industrial-revolution/lesson-plan/2427.html						
Lesson Description: Students will learn about child labour, what it is, and how it looks. After learning about child labour students will take action against child labour, potentially tying it into Labour Day.		Curriculum Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome: PA6.1f Suggest reasons for any economic differences among the regions in Canada and a selection of countries bordering the Atlantic Ocean, and speculate on the effects of those differences. • Outcome: RW6.1 g Compare and contrast the quality of life in Canada with the quality of life in a selection of countries bordering the Atlantic Ocean using various sources of data including a quality of life index, maps, graphs, and charts. • Outcome : RW6.2 b Investigate how individual local consumer choices may affect people elsewhere in the world (e.g., child labour, enslavement, sweat shops, consumption of scarce resources, prosperity through employment). 				
Materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to Internet • Kids at Work (a list of jobs children have historically performed.) 		Assessment: - Teacher-given exit slip				

Procedure

Before:

1. Write the International Labour Organization definition of child labour on the board:
 - Full-time work that is performed by kids under the age of 15
 - Work that prevents kids from attending school
 - Work that is hazardous to kids' physical, mental, or emotional health
2. Explain to students that “child labour” takes place when children are forced to do work that harms them in some way.

During:

Go over the Kids at Work handout with the students.

3. Discuss the International Labour Organization definition of child labour with the students and ask them to share their thoughts. Have they ever heard any stories on the news about child labour? Did they know that child labour had been used in the past?

After:

4. Invite students to celebrate Labour Day this year by taking action against child labour. Students may choose to:
 - Spread the word by sharing what they've learned with other people.
 - Make posters to inform others about the injustices of child labour.
 - Find out more by visiting [Kids Can Free the Children](http://www.freethechildren.com/) <http://www.freethechildren.com/>, a children's rights foundation that was created by a 12-year-old Canadian boy.

Kids at Work

When a child helps with household chores after school, he or she may dust or wash dishes. A child who grew up 100 years ago may not have gone to school at all. He or she may have worked full time as a powder monkey or a loblolly. Take a look at these and other historical jobs for kids.

Chimney sweeps: Small children, 6 to 8 years old, crawled up chimneys and loosened the soot with a broom. They often worked 12-hour days.

Gillie boys: These boys helped fishermen. They baited hooks, pulled nets, and prepared food.

Loblollies: These boys were surgeons' assistants and worked on military ships.

Office boys: Young boys worked in offices sharpening pencils, stuffing envelopes, sweeping floors, and running errands.

Powder monkeys: These boys worked on warships and at forts, carrying gunpowder to the cannons during battle.

Vendors: Children often sold things on city streets. There were newspaper boys, muffin boys, and hot corn girls.

Waterboys: Farm and construction crews had waterboys, who brought water to them while they worked.

Instead of sending children up a chimney, a goose would be tied to a rope and sent up to clean the soot with its feathers.