

# Labor History Month

## THE BIG CHANGE

### READING COMPREHENSION

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EDITABLE



### HANGE

NEWS

History of Labor History

of workers' rights and the

critical role in advancing  
its organizing?  
(NLRB)

workers' (NLRB) (NLRB) (NLRB)

READING COMPREHENSION  
MCQ'S  
QUESTIONS  
ANSWER KEY

## READING PASSAGES WITH TEXT DEPENDENT QUESTIONS

### THE BIG CHANGE

Labor History Month serves as a time to reflect on the significant changes that have shaped the landscape of workers' rights and the labor movement. From grassroots organizing to legislative victories, the journey of the labor movement is marked by moments of courage, resilience, and collective action. Let's explore some of the pivotal changes that have defined the labor movement and its impact on society.



#### FORMATION OF LABOR UNIONS

One of the most significant changes in labor history was the formation of labor unions, which provided workers with a collective voice to advocate for better wages, working conditions, and benefits. From the early days of the American Federation of Labor (AFL) to the rise of industrial unions like the United Auto Workers (UAW) and the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU), labor unions played a central role in advancing workers' rights and shaping labor laws.

#### STRIKES AND LABOR ACTIONS

Throughout history, strikes and labor actions have been powerful tools for workers to demand change and challenge unjust working conditions. From the Pullman Strike of 1894 to the Flint Sit-Down Strike of 1936-1937, workers across industries and sectors have organized strikes to protest low wages, unsafe working conditions, and unfair labor practices. These actions have often resulted in concessions from employers and led to improvements in workers' rights.

#### LEGISLATIVE REFORMS

The labor movement has also achieved significant victories through legislative reforms aimed at protecting workers and promoting fairness in the workplace. Key legislation such as the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) of 1938, which established minimum wage and overtime pay standards, and the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) of 1970, which created safety regulations for workplaces, have had a profound impact on workers' lives.

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#### EXPANSION OF WORKERS' RIGHTS

Over the years, the labor movement has expanded its focus to address a wide range of issues affecting workers, including gender and racial discrimination, healthcare access, and paid leave. Through advocacy, organizing, and legal action, labor activists have fought to ensure that all workers are treated with dignity, respect, and fairness, regardless of race, gender, or socioeconomic status.



#### GLOBAL SOLIDARITY

The labor movement has increasingly recognized the importance of global solidarity in addressing common challenges faced by workers around the world. International labor organizations, such as the International Labour Organization (ILO), work to promote decent work and social justice globally, advocating for fair wages, safe working conditions, and the elimination of child labor and forced labor.

#### CONCLUSION

As we commemorate Labor History Month, let us celebrate the progress made in advancing workers' rights and recognize the ongoing struggles and challenges faced by workers today. The labor movement has been instrumental in driving social and economic change, and its legacy continues to inspire us to fight for justice, equality, and dignity in the workplace and beyond. By standing together in solidarity, we can build a more just and equitable world for all workers.

READING COMPREHENSION

COLORED & B/W  
VERSIONS INCLUDED

### SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. What is Labor History Month?
2. Name one legislative reform in labor history.
3. What role have strikes and labor actions played in labor history?
4. Besides workers' rights, what other labor movement focused on?
5. What is the main goal of an organization like the International Labour Organization (ILO)?

## ANSWER KEY

### MCQ

1. B) To reflect on the significance of workers' rights and labor movement
2. A) American Federation of Labor (AFL)
3. C) They demanded change and challenged unjust working conditions
4. A) Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) of 1938
5. D) Gender and racial discrimination
6. C) Secure fair wages and safe working conditions globally
7. C) It democratized the power of work change through strikes
8. C) United Auto Workers (UAW)
9. A) Labor's organizing for workplace
10. C) The significance of reflecting on labor history and celebrating workers' rights

### SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Reflecting on the significance of workers' rights and the labor movement
2. Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) of 1938
3. Strikes and labor actions have been essential tools for workers to demand change and challenge unjust working conditions.
4. Gender and racial discrimination, healthcare access, and poor wages.
5. Secure fair wages and safe working conditions globally.

6. What is the primary goal of labor organizations like the International Labour Organization (ILO)?

- A) Promote global conflict resolution
- B) Advocate for Free Trade Agreements
- C) Secure fair wages and safe working conditions globally
- D) Provide humanitarian aid in conflict zones

7. What is the significance of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA)?

- A) It led to the formation of the American Labor Union (ALU)
- B) It resulted in the passage of the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA)
- C) It democratized the power of work change through strikes
- D) It established safety regulations for workers

8. Which union is known for its historic role in the 1930s?

- A) International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT)
- B) United Mine Workers of America (UMWA)
- C) United Auto Workers (UAW)
- D) Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

9. What aspect of workers' rights did the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) of 1970 focus on?

- A) Nighttime work
- B) Safety regulations for workplaces
- C) Minimum wage standards
- D) Gender discrimination in the workplace

10. What is the overarching message conveyed by Labor History Month?

- A) The impact of technological advancement on labor
- B) International cooperation in labor history
- C) The significance of reflecting on labor history and celebrating workers' rights
- D) Labor movement in protest

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## THE BIG CHANGE

DIRECTIONS: CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER.

1. What is one of the main purposes of Labor History Month?

- A) To celebrate cultural diversity
- B) To reflect on the significance of workers' rights and the labor movement
- C) To promote entrepreneurship
- D) To honor military veterans

2. Which organization played a central role in advancing workers' rights through grassroots organizing?

- A) American Federation of Labor (AFL)
- B) United Auto Workers (UAW)
- C) International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU)
- D) International Labour Organization (ILO)

3. What significant role did strikes and labor actions play in labor history?

- A) They led to the formation of labor unions
- B) They resulted in legislative reforms
- C) They demanded change and challenged unjust working conditions
- D) They advocated for global solidarity

4. Which legislation established minimum wage and overtime pay standards in the United States?

- A) Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) of 1938
- B) Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) of 1970
- C) Equal Pay Act of 1963
- D) Taft-Hartley Act of 1947

5. What issue has the labor movement increasingly focused on addressing besides workers' rights?

- A) Environmental conservation
- B) National security
- C) Gender and racial discrimination
- D) Tax reform

ANSWER KEY INCLUDED

10 - MCQ'S & 5 QUESTIONS

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