

# Labor History Month

# CHILD LABOR


## READING COMPREHENSION



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**CHILD LABOR**

LABOR HISTORY MONTH PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO REFLECT ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN WORKERS' RIGHTS AND THE CHALLENGES THAT REMAIN. ONE SIGNIFICANT ISSUE THAT SHAPED THE LABOR MOVEMENT WAS CHILD LABOR. FOR MANY YEARS, CHILDREN WERE SUBJECTED TO HARSH WORKING CONDITIONS AND EXPLOITATION FOR LITTLE MONEY AND FEWER LETS EXPLORE THE HISTORY OF CHILD LABOR AND ITS IMPACT ON THE LABOR MOVEMENT.



**THE ROLE OF CHILD LABOR**

During the Industrial Revolution of the 19th century, the demand for cheap labor led to the widespread exploitation of children. For children and adults alike, the conditions were often as grueling as those of the adult workforce. Many children in factories, mines, and fields were subjected to long hours, low pay, and even physical punishment. These harsh conditions led to the development of child labor laws, which aimed to protect children from exploitation and ensure they had access to education.



**THE FIGHT FOR REFORM**

An awareness of the plight of child laborers and their families began to emerge in the late 19th century. Organizations such as the National Child Labor Council and the National Child Labor Committee were established to advocate for legal measures to protect children. Reformers like Lewis Hine documented child labor through photography, providing a visual record of the harsh conditions and the impact on children's lives.

**READING COMPREHENSION MCQ'S QUESTIONS ANSWER KEY**

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## READING PASSAGES WITH TEXT DEPENDENT QUESTIONS

# CHILD LABOR

Labor History Month provides an opportunity to reflect on the progress made in workers' rights and the challenges that remain. One significant issue that shaped the labor movement is child labor. For many years, children were subjected to harsh working conditions and exploitation in factories, mines, and fields. Let's explore the history of child labor and its impact on the labor movement.



### THE RISE OF CHILD LABOR

During the Industrial Revolution of the 19th century, the demand for cheap labor led to the widespread exploitation of children in factories and mills. With little to no regulation, children as young as five or six were forced to work long hours in dangerous conditions for meager wages. They toiled in textile mills, coal mines, and sweatshops, facing injury, illness, and even death.

### THE FIGHT FOR REFORM

As awareness of the plight of child laborers grew, reformers and labor activists began to campaign for laws to protect children and limit their working hours. Organizations such as the National Child Labor Committee (NCLC) were established to advocate for legislative change and raise public awareness about the issue. Reformers like Lewis Hine documented the harsh realities of child labor through photography, galvanizing public support for reform efforts.

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### MILESTONES IN CHILD LABOR LEGISLATION

The fight against child labor gained momentum with the passage of landmark legislation aimed at protecting children in the workplace. In 1916, Congress passed the Keating-Owen Child Labor Act, which prohibited the interstate sale of goods produced by child labor. Although the Supreme Court later declared the law unconstitutional, it paved the way for future legislative efforts to address child labor.

### THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT

In 1938, Congress passed the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), which established minimum wage, overtime pay, and child labor standards for workers. The FLSA set a minimum age of 16 for most non-agricultural employment and 18 for hazardous occupations. While significant progress was made in reducing child labor, challenges remained, particularly in agriculture and informal sectors.

### GLOBAL EFFORTS TO END CHILD LABOR

The fight against child labor is a global endeavor, with organizations and governments working together to eliminate exploitative practices and protect children's rights. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has played a leading role in setting international standards and promoting action to eradicate child labor worldwide. Efforts to combat child labor include education initiatives, social protection programs, and enforcement of labor laws.

### CONCLUSION

As we observe Labor History Month, let us remember the role of child labor in shaping the labor movement and the ongoing struggle to protect the rights of workers, especially the most vulnerable among us. By learning from the past and advocating for policies that prioritize the well-being of children, we can continue to build a future where every child has the opportunity to thrive, free from exploitation and hardship.

## READING COMPREHENSION

COLORED & B/W  
VERSIONS INCLUDED

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

# CHILD LABOR

DIRECTIONS: CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER.

- During which historical period did the exploitation of child labor become widespread?
  - Renaissance
  - Industrial Revolution
  - Victorian Era
  - Progressive Era
- What were the working conditions like for child laborers during the Industrial Revolution?
  - Comfortable and safe
  - Short hours and high wages
  - Dangerous and long hours
  - Limited to agricultural work only
- Who documented the harsh realities of child labor through photography?
  - Lewis Carroll
  - Lewis Hine
  - Charles Dickens
  - Upton Sinclair
- Which organization was established to advocate for legislative change and raise public awareness about child labor?
  - International Labour Organization (ILO)
  - National Child Labor Committee (NCLC)
  - Fair Labor Association (FLA)
  - Child Labor Reform Coalition (CLRC)
- What legislation prohibited the interstate sale of goods produced by child labor?
  - Fair Labor Standards Act
  - Keating-Owen Child Labor Act
  - Child Labor Prevention Act
  - Industrial Regulation Act

## SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

- What was the main issue about...
- Who documented the harsh...
- What was the main of the...
- When was the Fair Labor...
- Which organization plays a...

6. When was the Fair Labor Standards Act passed?

- 1916
- 1938
- 1936
- 1937

7. What age limit did the Fair Labor Standards Act establish for most non-agricultural work?

- 14
- 16
- 18
- 21

8. Which organization plays a leading role in setting international standards for child labor?

- World Health Organization (WHO)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

9. What efforts are considered most effective in combating child labor globally?

- Education initiatives and social protection
- Strict enforcement of labor laws
- Economic stabilization
- Providing more job opportunities for adults

10. What is the overarching message of the history of child labor?

- Celebrating the achievements of child labor
- Recognizing the importance of child labor development
- Understanding the impact of child labor on society
- Viewing child labor as a mark of economic progress

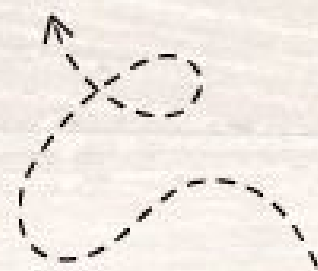
## ANSWER KEY

MCQ'S

- Industrial Revolution
- Dangerous and long hours
- Lewis Hine
- National Child Labor Committee (NCLC)
- Keating-Owen Child Labor Act
- 1938
- 16
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- Education initiatives and social protection programs
- Recognizing the importance of child labor development

## SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

- Child labor and its impact on the labor movement
- Lewis Hine
- Keating-Owen Child Labor Act
- 1938
- International Labour Organization (ILO)



10 - MCQ'S & 5 QUESTIONS

ANSWER KEY INCLUDED

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**JUST PRINT AND GO!**



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