

TEACHING PAGE



BURNING QUESTION: HOW DID LABOR LAWS AFFECT THE LIVES OF CHILDREN?

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

- WHAT WERE THE JOBS AND CONDITIONS OF LABOR LAW?
- WHAT WERE THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL EFFECTS ON CHILDREN?
- HOW DID THE LAWS EVOLVE?

WHAT WERE THE JOBS AND CONDITIONS

OF LABOR LAW?

Some of the jobs that children were exposed to were working in factories, mills, mines and in the textile factories. Often, these workplaces were dirty, had poor lighting, dangerous, and unhealthy in terms of exposure to chemicals. The children were also not very respected. They were pawns under the British Government and had strict ruling and discipline. At first, children did not receive wages. Child apprentices were paupers taken from orphanages and workhouses. They were housed, clothed and fed. Though, they didn't receive a wage and were not fed very well. Children were pretty much classified as the workers class, as their level of work fell under the workers class ranking. They had the rank of unskilled labor, since they were only children and could not be very experienced in labor at their age. These children had their freedom, dignity and creativity taken away from them which affected them later. At first, they also had no access to schooling, but that changed as labor laws evolved.



Pauper(s): These were people who were very poor and depended on charity.

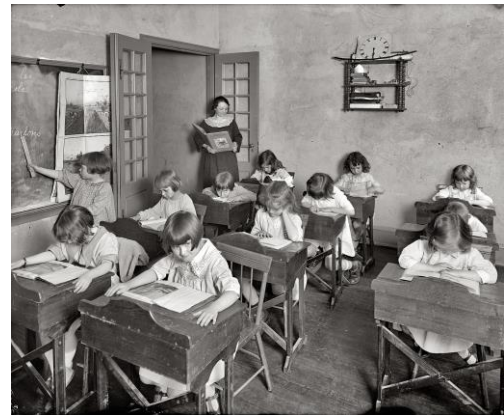
WHAT WERE THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL EFFECTS ON CHILDREN?



These children completely lost their childhood. They were not able to spend enough time with their families and other people their age. They didn't play with other children and that affected their social development and caused future aggression, isolation and depression. They also were malnourished and always at work so these children ended up quite small because they couldn't grow and develop properly because their lives developed around work and were spent in dark mines or busy factories. They also had higher risk of illness because they were most likely exposed to chemicals while at work because the workplace conditions were very dangerous and unhealthy. They would have serious health and mental conditions in the future because sometimes the workplaces could be traumatizing, and child labor is a negative experience almost always. I doubt there is a possibility that children had a positive experience with child labor.

HOW DID THE LAWS EVOLVE OVER THE YEARS?

At first, child labor laws did not include education and children did not attend school for a major part of the industrial revolution. It wasn't until the **Factory Act in 1833** that children had to attend certain amounts of school. Some other components of this act were: Hours, ages, and the need for inspectors to enforce the laws. When these laws started to evolve, people began realizing the importance of respecting the children. They also began to see the effects on the children and how they would turn out as an adult, and there is evidence to back up all of the effects. There was also a decrease in child labor after employers realized that most jobs required the strength of an adult, or in some case multiple adults. Therefore, children were no longer helpful or needed. Also, parents were beginning to be allowed to keep their children at home which was beneficial for both the parents and children. Another factor was education laws. Education took time that the children used to spend working which decreased the amount of child labor. Lastly, there was many advancements in technology during the Industrial Revolution, and the need for people in work was becoming lesser. Especially the children.



Factory Act in 1833: The Factory Act in 1833 was an act revolving around child labor laws and attempting to improve them. Young children were working very long hours in workplaces which had terrible conditions. So, the government passed laws to improve the lives of the children. These laws included the following: Children under 9 years were forbidden to work and employers had to have an age certificate for their child workers.



Children aged 9-13 were not allowed to work more than 9 hours per day. Others aged 13-19 were not allowed to work more than 12 hours a day. No children could work during the night. Each child must have 2 hours of education per day. There were to be 4 factory inspectors appointed to enforce these laws. Though, these laws did not come into effect overnight and children were not better treated immediately. Some flaws were noticed. How were people supposed to provide evidence on the laws being enforced? How were you supposed to measure the time of how long each child has been working? Many of the laws were broken. Therefore, this act was not very effective. But it is an improvement and goes to show that the government did make efforts to try to improve child labor laws.

SO, HOW DID LABOR LAWS AFFECT THE LIVES OF CHILDREN?



There were not really any positive effects of child labor, other than training for a future job. Answering my guiding questions proved how the effect on children were drastic. When I explained the physical and mental effects on children, it especially showed how their lives were affected because it explained how they were specifically affected. All my information proves that the lives of children were far worse than ours now. Though, a big difference between our

childhood compared to during the Industrial Revolution is the insane advancement in technology as well as social advancements and evolution of laws. Many things affect the difference, but it is all significant. Children now have more respect. They also do not work until around 14-15 years of age. There are countless differences between the two. Though, I am only talking about children in our region. Around the world in developing countries, there is still child labor and child labor laws, and children are still working at a very young age. Some children around the world are working just for the purpose of their survival because they need to walk great lengths and in great heat just to get water.