

Child Labor PowerPoint



THE GROWTH OF CITIES...

Since colonial times, cities played an important role in American life. The vast majority of people lived in rural areas. However, farmers often sent crops to cities for sale or shipment.

Urbanization

- During the Industrial Revolution, many people left farms to work in factories.
- Older cities expanded rapidly, while new cities sprang up around factories.
- This movement of the population from farms to cities is called urbanization.



Changes in home dynamics



- On farms or in home workshops, families worked together as a unit.
- As the factory system spread, more family members left the home to earn a living.
- City attractions such as theaters, museums, and circuses created an air of excitement.

You're hired

- Factory owners mostly hired women and children.
- Small children were especially useful in textile mills because they could squeeze around the large machines to change spindles.
- Most people did not see much difference between children working in a factory or on a farm.



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF...

Although the place and type of work may have changed, the family often stayed together to work. Children worked in over 100 types of jobs.

MILLS:





**COAL
BREAKERS:**



COAL MINES:







TOBACCO FARMS:



**COTTON
FARMS:**



PRODUCE FARMS:



CANNERIES:



**STREET
VENDORS:**



BOOTBLACKS:



**NEWSGIRLS /
NEWSBOYS:**



**NEWSSTAND
TENDERS:**



**WORKERS AT
HOME:**



**STRINGING
BUTTONS:**



PICKING NUTS:



SEWING:





**MAKING &
STRINGING
TAGS:**



DELIVERING GOODS:

Life as a
working child
was not easy.

WORKING CONDITIONS...

Working hours were long—12 hours a day, 6 days a week. Farmers put in long hours, but worked shorter hours in winter. Factory workers, by contrast, worked nearly the same hours all year round.





Large, heaving, and dangerous equipment was very common for children to be using or working near.



Boys were sometimes dragged naked from their beds and sent to the factories only holding their clothes, to them put on there. This was to make sure the boys would not be late.





Children were paid only a fraction of what an adult would get, and sometimes factory owners would get away with paying them nothing.



The people who the children served would beat them, verbally abuse them, and take no consideration for their safety.

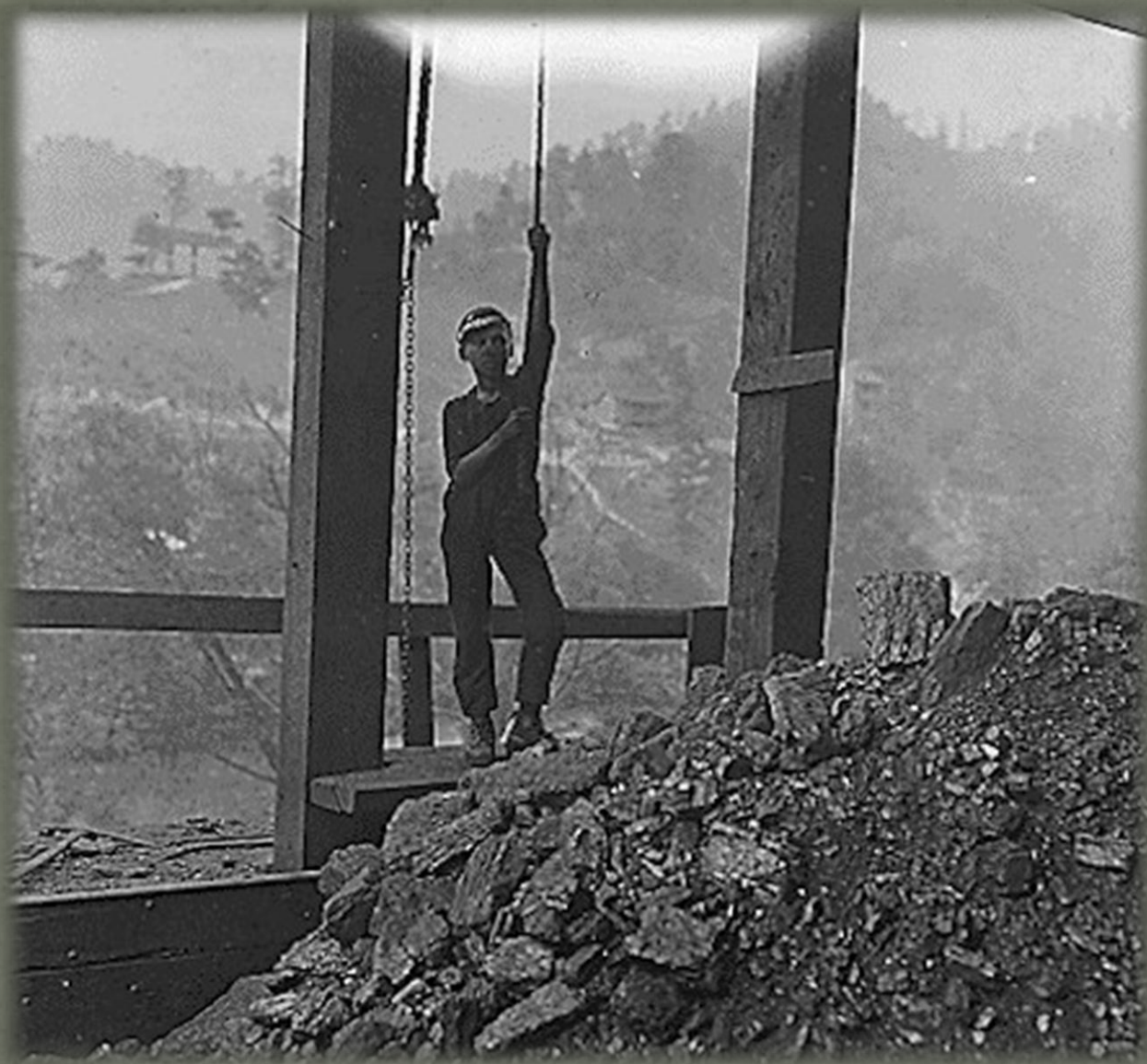


One common punishment for being late or not working was to be “weighted.” A heavy weight was tied around a child's neck. Then they would have to walk up and down the factory aisles so other children could take notice.









A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION...

Laws

1832

New England unions condemn child labor.

1836

Massachusetts requires children under 15 working in factories to attend school at least 3 months / year.

1842


Massachusetts limits children's work days to 10 hours.

OTHER PHYSICAL EFFECTS

CHILDREN MAY ESCAPE THE COGS
OF THE MACHINE
BUT
THEY CANNOT ESCAPE THE
DEADENING EFFECT OF

- Long Hours
- Monotonous Toil
- Lack of Proper Recreation
- Loss of Education
- Vicious Surroundings

THE NORMAL CHILD THE MILL CHILD



WOULD YOU CARE TO HAVE YOUR CHILD
PAY THIS PRICE?

Laws (continued)



1883

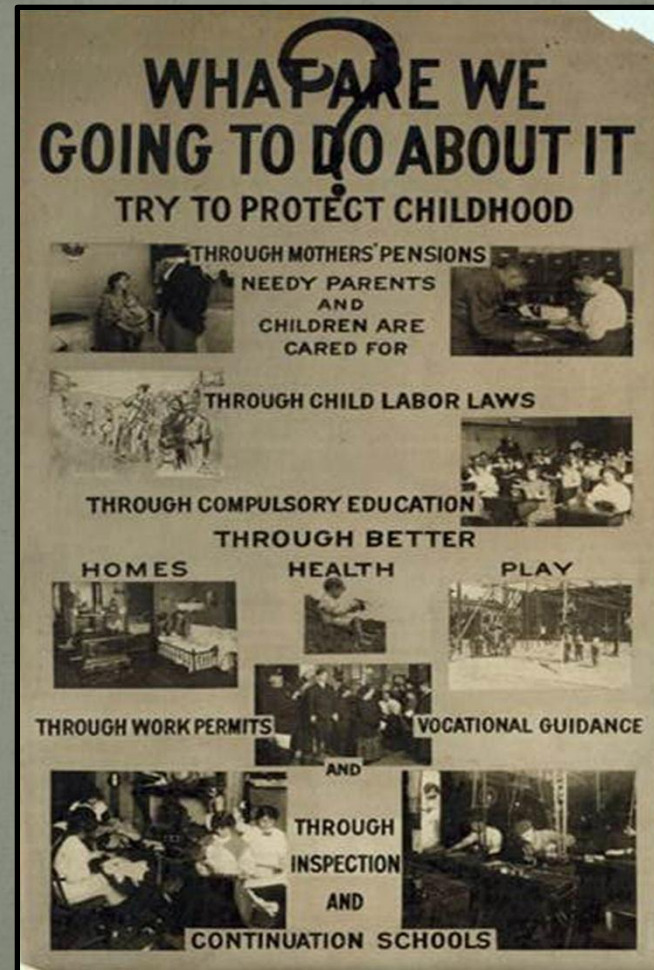
New York successfully sponsors legislation prohibiting cigar making in tenements, where thousands of young children work in the trade.

1938

For the first time, minimum ages of employment and hours of work for children are regulated by federal law.

The Fair Labor Standards Act (1941)

1. A work week of 40 hours.
2. A minimum wage of 40 cents per hour.
3. Age 18 as the minimum age for work in industries classified as hazardous. No minimum age was set for non-hazardous agricultural employment after school hours and during vacations. Children aged 14 and 15 could be employed in non-manufacturing, non-mining, and non-hazardous occupations outside of school hours and during vacations for limited hours.



Review