## Child Labor

1. Examine the photographs of child labor in the United States done by Lewis Hine. Select two pictures and consider the following questions:
A. What do you see? What three details stand out to you?
B. What do you think? How do you respond to the pictures?
C. What do you wonder? What questions do you have?
2. After reading, the interview with a former child laborer in England ganswer the following questions:
A. How many hours did he work? How much rest was he given?
B. What challenges did he face at work?
C. What challenges did he face at home?
D. How would you describe his childhood?

## Mills



Some boys and girls were so small they had to climb up on to the spinning frame to mend broken threads and to put back the empty bobbins. Bibb Mill No. 1. Macon, Georgia.


The overseer said apologetically, "She just happened in." She was working steadily. The mills seem full of youngsters who "just happened in" or "are helping sister." Newberry, South Carolina.


Children on the night shift going to work at 6 p.m. on a cold, dark December day. They do not come out again until 6 a.m. When they went home the next morning they were all drenched by a heavy, cold rain and had few or no wraps. Two of the smaller girls with three other sisters work on the night shift and support a big, lazy father who complains he is not well enough to work. He loafs around the country store. The oldest three of these sisters have been in the mill for 7 years, and the two youngest, two years. The latter earns 84 cents a night. Whitnel, North Carolina.

## Newsies



A small newsie downtown on a Saturday afternoon. St. Louis, Missouri.


Out after midnight selling extras. There were many young boys selling very late. Youngest boy in the group is 9 years old. Harry, age 11, Eugene and the rest were a little older. Washington, D.C.


Eldridge Bernard, 11 yrs. old. Buster Smith, 6 yrs. Old. Route boys of Newark. Colored. Taken at 4 P.M. Location: Newark, New Jersey.


Newsboy asleep on stairs with papers. Jersey City, New Jersey.

## Miners



View of the Ewen Breaker of the Pennsylvania Coal Co. The dust was so dense at times as to obscure the view. This dust penetrated the utmost recesses of the boys' lungs. A kind of slave-driver sometimes stands over the boys, prodding or kicking them into obedience. South Pittston, Pennsylvania.


At the close of day. Waiting for the cage to go up. The cage is entirely open on two sides and not very well protected on the other two, and is usually crowded like this. The small boy in front is Jo Puma. South Pittston, Pennsylvania.


A young driver in the Brown Mine. Has been driving one year. Works 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily. Brown, West Virginia.

## Factory



Young cigar makers in Engelhardt \& Co. Three boys looked under 14. Labor leaders told me in busy times many small boys and girls were employed. Youngsters all smoke.


9 p.m. in an Indiana Glass Works.


Day scene. Wheaton Glass Works. Boy is Howard Lee. His mother showed me the family record in Bible which gave his birth as July 15, 1894. 15 years old now, but has been in glass works two years and some nights. Millville, New Jersey.

## Seafood Workers



Oyster shuckers working in a canning factory. All but the very smallest babies work. Began work at 3:30 a.m. and expected to work until 5 p.m. The little girl in the center was working. Her mother said she is "a real help to me." Dunbar, Louisiana.


Hiram Pulk, age 9, working in a canning company. "I ain't very fast only about 5 boxes a day. They pay about 5 cents a box," he said. Eastport, Maine.


Fish cutters at a canning company in Maine. Ages range from 7 to 12 . They live near the factory. The 7 -year-old boy in front, Byron Hamilton, has a badly cut finger but helps his brother regularly. Behind him is his brother George, age 11, who cut his finger half off while working. Ralph, on the left, displays his knife and also a badly cut finger. They and many youngsters said they were always cutting themselves. George earns a dollar some days usually 75 cents. Some of the others say they earn a dollar when they work all day. At times they start at 7 a.m. and work all day until midnight.


Manuel the young shrimp picker, age 5, and a mountain of child labor oyster shells behind him. He worked last year. Understands not a word of English. Biloxi, Mississippi.


A Bowery bootblack in New York City.


Three young boys with shovels standing in doorway of a Fort Worth \& Denver train car.


Young boys working for Hickok Lumber Co. Burlington, Vermont.

## Supporting Question 2

Question: What age are you?
Answer: Twenty-two.
Question: What is your occupation?
Answer: A blanket manufacturer.
Question: Have you ever been employed in a factory?
Answer: Yes.
Question: At what age did you first go to work in one?
Answer: Eight.
Question: How long did you continue in that occupation?
Answer: Four years.
Question: Will you state the hours of labour at the period when you first went to the factory, in ordinary times?
Answer: From 6 in the morning to 8 at night.
Question: Fourteen hours?
Answer: Yes.
Question: With what intervals for refreshment and rest?
Answer: An hour at noon.
Question: When trade was brisk what were your hours?
Answer: From 5 in the morning to 9 in the evening.
Question: Sixteen hours?
Answer: Yes.
Question: With what intervals at dinner?
Answer: An hour.
Question: How far did you live from the mill?
Answer: About two miles.
Question: Was there any time allowed for you to get your breakfast in the mill?
Answer: No.
Question: Did you take it before you left your home?
Answer: Generally.
Question: During those long hours of labour could you be punctual; how did you awake?
Answer: I seldom did awake spontaneously; I was most generally awoke or lifted out of bed, sometimes asleep, by my parents.

Question: Were you always in time?
Answer: No.

Question: What was the consequence if you had been too late?
Answer: I was most commonly beaten.

Question: Severely?
Answer: Very severely, I thought.

Question: In those mills is chastisement towards the latter part of the day going on perpetually?
Answer: Perpetually.

Question: So that you can hardly be in a mill without hearing constant crying?
Answer: Never an hour, I believe.

Question: Do you think that if the overlooker were naturally a humane person it would still be found necessary for him to beat the children, in order to keep up their attention and vigilance at the termination of those extraordinary days of labour?
Answer: Yes; the machine turns off a regular quantity of cardings, and of course, they must keep as regularly to their work the whole of the day; they must keep with the machine, and therefore however humane the slubber may be, as he must keep up with the machine or be found fault with, he spurs the children to keep up also by various means but that which he commonly resorts to is to strap them when they become drowsy.

Question: At the time when you were beaten for not keeping up with your work, were you anxious to have done it if you possibly could?
Answer: Yes; the dread of being beaten if we could not keep up with our work was a sufficient impulse to keep us to it if we could.

Question: When you got home at night after this labour, did you feel much fatigued?
Answer: Very much so.

Question: Had you any time to be with your parents, and to receive instruction from them?
Answer: No.

Question: What did you do?
Answer: All that we did when we got home was to get the little bit of supper that was provided for us and go to bed immediately. If the supper had not been ready directly, we should have gone to sleep while it was preparing.

Question: Did you not, as a child, feel it a very grievous hardship to be roused so soon in the morning?
Answer: I did.

Question: Were the rest of the children similarly circumstanced?
Answer: Yes, all of them; but they were not all of them so far from their work as I was.
Question: And if you had been too late you were under the apprehension of being cruelly beaten?
Answer: I generally was beaten when I happened to be too late; and when I got up in the morning the apprehension of that was so great, that I used to run, and cry all the way as I went to the mill.

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