
Lesson Plans

Teaching with Primary Sources Program

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Justice and Work

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Justice and Work

Marjorie Frana

Lesson Topic: Justice and Work

Grade Level: 9th - 11th

Time Frame: 2 Weeks

Subject Matter: Child Labor

Lesson plan description: Research, Present information in Power Point, Present information to school

Technology Required: Internet access, Power Point, LCD projector

Category: History / Social Studies

1. This is part of a unit on “Justice and Work” from Catholic Social Teaching, from Ave Maria Press.

2. <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/learn/lessons/98/labor/hinerep.html> The students did this initial activity on the Lewis Hine’s report.

3. <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/pp/nclhtml/nclcsubjindex1.html> The students went to this site to find pictures dealing with child labor from the state assigned to them. They were to choose three photos and used the Twentieth Century Data Sheet found at (loc??? Sorry, I can’t find the page) These photos were used as the instruction to their PowerPoint presentations on child labor. Each student created her own presentation. Students were assigned different states to give the class a broader view if the issues.

4. <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/pp/nclhtml/nclcarrange.html> The students were asked to choose one or two photos from each group (Labor, reform movements, etc.) which they thought best exemplified the message they wanted to convey about the topic. They were then asked to write a short paragraph about their observations of each section. (They viewed about 20 pictures in each section to make these observations.) These observations and photos were added to their PowerPoint presentations.

5. American Life Histories: Manuscripts from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936-1940 In order to better understand the situation of families in the early part of the last century and why there might have been a need to have children work to help support their families, the students each read a story from this collection and wrote a summary of the main ideas in the interview. They then wrote a list of the pros and cons on whether the children in this

family should work.

6. [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/naw:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(rbnawsan7485\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/naw:@field(DOCID+@lit(rbnawsan7485))): The students did a jigsaw activity covering the work of women activists, many of whom worked on issues dealing with children and child labor.

7. <http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/Twork.htm> This website contains a model for a debate on child labor. Even though it focuses on child labor in Britain, it provides material for a debate on the issues which teaches students to see that there was more than one view point on the issue of child labor.

8. http://www.unicef.org/voy/cgi-bin/zquiz.cgi?quiz=work&lang=en&exit_url=/voy/index.html The students took an online quiz provide by UNICEF.

9. <http://americanhistory.si.edu/sweatshops/index.htm> Students visited this virtual museum exhibit from the Smithsonian and wrote a journal about their reaction to what they read and saw about child labor from 1820 to the present.

10. <http://thomas.loc.gov/> The students checked out current laws being proposed which will cover child labor problems (ex. H.R. 3139). The students not only discussed the contents, but also the fact that this deals with the original Fair Labor Standards Act going back to 1939!

11. The students viewed the short documentary, “To Earn, Or Learn,” produced by Catholic Relief services. This video supports the need for children to learn and often leave the traditional ways of their villages.

12. The students read an article on “Rethinking Child Labor.” After reading this article they used all of their notes from their study of child labor and the unit on “Justice and Work” to discuss the issues child labor in an essay which served as the exam for this unit. The information in this article contradicted information they viewed in the above video.

13. <http://www.maquilasolidarity.org/tools/fashionshow.htm> This is the basis for the following activity. The students researched companies who are presently using child labor in the making of their products. They then created a PowerPoint sweatshop fashion show just before the holidays which they presented to the entire school to make them aware of the issue.

14. <http://www.maquilasolidarity.org/tools/campaign/carols.htm> The students adapted some the carols from this page to use with their fashion show presentation.

15. Final assessments: essay, PowerPoint presentations, fashion show.