

Nicholas Miller Montera Middle School
Industrialization in the North
8th grade
The Nation Expands

Objectives:

1. Students will analyze the impact of industrialization on the North during the mid 1800's.
2. Students will determine whether or not it is all right for a factory owner to hire child workers in order to keep his product prices low and competitive.
3. Students will grapple with the moral dilemma of doing what is morally good or keeping up with competition.
4. Students will weigh moral considerations against the conventions that sustain child labor
5. Students will consider personal domain consideration of whether children have a "right" to work against moral concerns for their welfare

Lesson Summary

This lesson is designed to engage students in the question of whether it is all right to hire child workers and pay them a low wage in order to keep the prices of goods down.

Procedure

1. Launch/Do Now: Students will look at page 355 of their Holt textbook. They will read all the captions and answer the analyzing visuals question.
2. Pair/Share: Students will talk with their shoulder partners about the Launch.
3. Students will read page 355-356 in Holt United States History: Independence to 1914 about the Lowell System.
4. Students will be asked to describe daily life for a mill worker. Students will then be asked why some young women would choose to work in a factory under these harsh conditions.
5. Students will then be presented with a hypothetical situation in which a factory owner must decide whether or not to hire child labor in order to keep his prices competitive with other factories that employ young workers.
6. Students will get into groups and discuss the above situation.
7. Then students will answer questions about the situation.