

TPS Lesson Plan

The American Worker: Industrialization in America

Written by Heather Kensill, Erie City School District, PA

Overview

The students will analyze silent black and white films of workers from the Westinghouse Corporation c. 1904 and draw conclusions about the forms of technology used in the manufacturing industry.

Objectives

1. Using the Primary Source Analysis Tool Worksheet for Photograph and Prints from the Library of Congress, the students will be able to analyze the assigned film clip and draw conclusions about the American manufacturing industry in early 1900's both individually and in small groups.
2. The students will be able to identify the race, gender, clothing, form(s) of technology available, the number of employees, and the safety concerns that pertain to each of the film clip(s).
3. The students will be able to describe the type of work that many factory workers were assigned to complete in a given shift at the Westinghouse Corporation by viewing film segment(s) from the Library of Congress in class.

Time Required: One 90-minute class period

Recommended Grade Range: 9-12

Subject/ Sub-Topic: Social Studies/American History: Industrialization in America in the late 19th through the early 20th Century

Standards

- CC.8.5.9-10.A. Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, attending to such features as the date and origin of the information.
- CC.8.5.9-10.B. Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of how key events or ideas develop over the course of the text.
- CC.8.5.9-10.I. Compare and contrast treatments of the same topic in several primary and secondary sources.

PREPARATION

Materials

- Laptop Cart / Computer Lab
 - LCD Projector
 - Printer(s)
 - Attached Bibliographic Organizer for the film clip resources
 - Primary Source Analysis Tool for Photograph and Prints: <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/primary-source-analysis-tool/>
 - Working Conditions: <https://www.loc.gov/collections/films-of-westinghouse-works-1904/articles-and-essays/the-westinghouse-world/working-conditions/>
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PROCEDURE

1. In the post-Civil War years, industry was booming in America. The students will be asked to identify several of the manufacturing plants in their own city and county and where those places are located. To understand what life was like for workers of the time period, the students will view several early black and white silent “actuality” films taken from the Westinghouse Company, a company that began near Pittsburgh, PA. The students will analyze and discuss what it was like to go to work in a factory in the early 1900’s.
2. The teacher will model for the students how to use Prints and Photographs Analysis Tool Worksheet <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/primary-source-analysis-tool/> with a Westinghouse actuality film “Girls taking time checks, Westinghouse works.” <https://www.loc.gov/item/96522103/> The class will complete the analysis worksheet from the Library of Congress and the teacher will model how to save / print completed copies of the worksheet. The teacher and the students will then discuss the process of clocking in to begin a shift at work. What type of technology is being used? How is that different from today’s technology for clocking in/out for work?
3. The teacher will assign each student a Westinghouse film clip to analyze. The students will individually log onto a computer, browse directly into their school email account, and locate an email that contains the URLs for the Prints and Photographs Analysis Tool Worksheet and their specific Westinghouse film clip that they were pre-assigned by the teacher.
4. After the students have completed an individual analysis, the teacher will then have the students print their Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Analysis Tool Worksheet. The students will then be placed into pre-determined heterogeneous groups to discuss the film clip to compare and contrast what they have seen. All of the students in the group will have viewed the same film segment. The teacher will have the groups select a recorder (collect responses) a reporter (to present with the whole class), a timekeeper (monitor group progress), and a technical director (play the video for the group to review). The teacher will ask the students to determine the answers to the following (2) questions: 1.

What type(s) or form(s) of technology are being used? 2. How is that different from form(s) of technology used in the 21st Century? Each of the groups have to draw a minimum of (2) conclusions about the manufacturing workers.

5. In a whole class setting, the teacher will play each film clip and have the reporter for each group share the findings with their peers.
6. The teacher will lead a class discussion of the collective findings. The class will also address how manufacturing looks today (lessened danger due to technology and legislation; less workers as a result of technology/computers/robotics). The teacher will serve as the moderator of the class discussion.

Extensions

The students will read the article “Working Conditions” <https://www.loc.gov/collections/films-of-westinghouse-works-1904/articles-and-essays/the-westinghouse-world/working-conditions/> and highlight/underline other examples of working conditions in Westinghouse factories.

Evaluation

Formal:

The teacher will have the students answer the following question (in a paragraph) “What was it like to work in American manufacturing in the early 1900’s? Use at least (2) specific examples from today’s research to explain the type of work and working conditions.”

The teacher will also review each student’s analysis sheet for completeness.

Informal:

Class Discussion

Title of Lesson or Topic: The American Worker: Industrialization in America Developed by: Heather Kensill Date: 5/18/2016		
Thumbnail Image	Document Title, Author/Creator, Date	Collection or Repository, Reproduction # or Digital ID, Library of Congress URL
	Title: Coil winding section E, Westinghouse works / Creator: Bitzer, G. W. - American Mutoscope and Biograph Company Created/published: 1904	Repository: Library of Congress, Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division. Digital ID: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mbrsmi/westhpp.1985 URL: https://www.loc.gov/item/96522037/
	Title: Coil winding machines, Westinghouse works / Creator: Bitzer, G. W. - American Mutoscope and Biograph Company Created/published: 1904	Repository: Library of Congress, Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division. Digital ID: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mbrsmi/westhpp.1984 URL: https://www.loc.gov/item/96522217/
	Title: Steam hammer, Westinghouse works / Creator: Bitzer, G. W. - American Mutoscope and Biograph Company Created/published: 1904	Repository: Library of Congress, Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division. Digital ID: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mbrsmi/westhpp.2206 URL: https://www.loc.gov/item/96521990/
	Title: Welding the big ring / Creator: Bitzer, G. W. - American Mutoscope and Biograph Company Created/published: 1904	Repository: Library of Congress, Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division. Digital ID: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mbrsmi/westhpp.2232 URL: https://www.loc.gov/item/96522219/
	Title: Casting a guide box, Westinghouse works / Creator: Bitzer, G. W. - American Mutoscope and Biograph Company Created/published: 1904	Repository: Library of Congress, Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division. Digital ID: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mbrsmi/westhpp.1974 URL: https://www.loc.gov/item/96521941/

	<p>Title: Tapping a furnace, Westinghouse Works /</p> <p>Creator: Bitzer, G. W. - American Mutoscope and Biograph Company</p> <p>Created/published: 1904</p>	<p>Repository: Library of Congress, Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division.</p> <p>Digital ID: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mbrsmi/westhpp.2213</p> <p>URL: https://www.loc.gov/item/96521940/</p>
	<p>Title: Girls taking time checks, Westinghouse works /</p> <p>Creator: Bitzer, G. W. - American Mutoscope and Biograph Company</p> <p>Created/published: 1904</p>	<p>Repository: Library of Congress, Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division.</p> <p>Digital ID: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mbrsmi/westhpp.2033</p> <p>URL: https://www.loc.gov/item/96522103/</p>
<p>Article</p>	<p>Title: Working Conditions</p> <p>Date Accessed: May 19, 2016</p>	<p>Collection: Inside an American Factory: Films of the Westinghouse Works, 1904</p> <p>URL: https://www.loc.gov/collections/films-of-westinghouse-works-1904/articles-and-essays/the-westinghouse-world/working-conditions/</p>