Children at

Labour History Project Working People: A History of Labour in BC



**Children at Work**

**Film Summary:** Young children have always been part of the work force in British Columbia. Through the story of the explosion at Coal Creek mines in Fernie, this film examines the issue of child labour.

**The Essential Question:**

How has Canada developed legally, socially and economically inrespect to labour laws and child labour since the turn of the century?

**Curriculum Application**

Social Studies 9

Social Justice 12

**Summary of the Lesson Activities**

1. Focus questions on the vignette provide a short lesson option. (15 minutes)
2. Lesson includes background Information on Child Labour with an emphasis on BC history.
3. Primary Sources investigation using photographs of child labour in BC, Canada and the world.
4. A web-based inquiry activity where students investigate current child labour situations in the global community.

Learning Standards

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the economic factors that contribute to child labour. (**causes and consequences)**
2. Demonstrate an understanding of turn of the century labour practices and be able to draw comparisons with contemporary examples**. (continuity and change)**
3. Successfully conduct online research and analyze online materials to better understand historical, social and economic issues in the history of child labour in Canada and the world. (**evidence** and **perspective)**
4. In the Crow’s Nest Mining disaster of 1902 128 miners were killed, how many were boys under the age of 16?
5. In which industry were children employed in the most dangerous conditions?
6. In British Columbia, what legal protection did child labourers have?
7. Children injured on the job often faced an adult life of poverty. Explain
8. What public service removed many children from the workforce after World War I?
9. What embarrassing labour distinction did British Columbia have for all of North America?

**Vignette Questions**

**Materials and Resources Provided**

* [Children at Work Episode 1- Working People-a History of Labour in British Columbia](https://www.labourheritagecentre.ca/children/)
* Lesson Strategy “Children at Work” (Document 1)
* Class set of “Working Children” Essay (Document 2)
* Class set of “Children at Work”- Photo Analysis (Document 3)
* Photographic Analysis sheet (Document 3a)
* Class set of Web Inquiry handouts (Document 4)

**Additional Suggested Materials**

* [Knowledge Network-Edge of the World: B.C.’s Early Years “Coal Miners Lament”](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9xzoS0jqB5g)
* [Video-“These were the reasons…” Ch1 Early Stories -working without a union](https://youtu.be/NFwpDcBUPlw).
* Video: [British Columbia: An Untold History-Labour and Persistence](https://www.knowledge.ca/program/british-columbia-untold-history/e2/labour-persistence)
* [Canada’s History](https://www.knowledge.ca/program/british-columbia-untold-history/e2/labour-persistence)
* Canada’s History: [Canada's Boy Miners](https://www.canadashistory.ca/explore/business-industry/canada-s-boy-miners)
* Dictionary of Canadian Biography
  + - [Robert Dunsuir](http://biographi.ca/en/bio/dunsmuir_robert_11E.html)
    - [Samuel Myers](http://biographi.ca/en/bio/myers_samuel_h_11E.html)
* [On the Line A History of the British Columbia Labour Movement p279-280](https://www.knowbc.com/books/On-the-Line/Chapter-23)
* Working People: A History of Labour in British Columbia Lessons.

[Miners vs. Dunsmuirs](https://www.labourheritagecentre.ca/miners/)

Vancouver Island War

* [WE. Child Labour](https://www.we.org/en-CA/about-we/get-in-touch/press/in-the-media/child-labor/)
* [UNICEF: Child Labour](https://www.unicef.org/protection/child-labour)

**Lesson Activities**

1. This lesson is intended to be taught in a Social Studies 9 Laurier Period unit or a Social Studies 10, Human Geography unit related to economic and human development. Teachers may adapt it for Social Justice 12 classrooms.
2. Download the lesson plan for “Child Labour Then and Now”
3. Suggestions in the lesson plan provide for an introduction strategy that includes a bridging strategy from past knowledge of the Industrial Revolution to the video and current global conditions.
4. Read the essay excerpt from Neil Sutherland and follow the optional discussion questions
5. Photos that are included in the Lesson resources can be built into a power point or be used in class sets for further discussion. See the Photographic Analysis sheet for instructional suggestions.
6. Create a handout or a PowerPoint presentation on the Child Labour facts provided in the lesson.
7. Engage the students in a Child Labour inquiry as a summative exercise for evaluation.

bctf/ufcw 1518

Credit: Teaching Activities and Lesson Plan developed by John Decaire