

Working Now, No More School

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OVERVIEW

Children will generate a list of questions that they would like to ask a peer who, instead of going to school, is working in a coal mine.

STANDARDS

- History Standard 2.1: Students know how to formulate questions and hypotheses regarding what happened in the past and to obtain and analyze historical data to answer questions and test hypotheses.
- Reading and Writing Standard 2: Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.

OBJECTIVES

After completing this activity, students will be able to:

- Gather information from historical photographs
- Understand that all children have not always had the opportunity to go to school, and that earlier in the century, were expected to work.

INQUIRY QUESTIONS

- What are the children in the picture carrying?
- Why do you think the boys had to carry their own lunches?
- What do you think the lights on their helmets were used for?
- How are the boys dressed?

MATERIALS

- Doing History CD-ROM disk or Internet site to research the topic:
20th Century: Work Places: photograph #1

PROCEDURE

1. Have the children use the inquiry questions to guide them through the CD-ROM disk or Internet site to research the 20th Century: Work Places topic.
2. Ask the children to focus on photograph #1 in the Mining section that shows 10-12 year old boys who worked in the coal mines in the 1920's.
3. Briefly discuss child labor with the class.
4. Ask the children to write down a list of questions they would like to ask the boys.
5. Have the children share their questions with the class.

ASSESSMENT

Use the interview questions the children generate to assess their understanding.