

# February Break

Have a happy break.

## Industrial Revolution



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Homeroom: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Due: Monday February 24<sup>th</sup>

The day after break!

Hey! Read directions →

Directions: Read each passage and answer the corresponding questions. Then answer the final question using both passages. If you need more space for any of the short answer, please use a separate sheet of paper, but remember, answer with an inference, provide text evidence, then provide some more text evidence. That's it!



CHAPTER *Biography*

19



**Mary Jones**

**LABOR REFORMER**

The growth of organized labor in the United States depended on the courage of hundreds of ordinary people. One of these was a woman whom coal miners dubbed "Mother Jones." Read the paragraphs below. Then, on a separate sheet of paper, answer the questions that follow.

I would look out of the plate glass windows and see the poor, shivering wretches, jobless and hungry, walking along the frozen lakefront. The contrast of their condition with that of the . . . comfort of the people for whom I sewed was sinful to me.

With these words, a Chicago dressmaker named Mary Jones displayed both the sympathy and the anger that helped make her one of the outstanding labor leaders of her day.

"Mother Jones," as she came to be called, was born Mary Harris in County Cork, Ireland, in 1830. At age 10, she emigrated to join her father in Canada. Later, moving to the United States, she taught school, first in Michigan and then in Tennessee.

In 1861, Mary Harris married a Tennessee ironworker named George Jones. The couple had four children. In 1867, however, a yellow fever epidemic killed George Jones and all the children.

Grief-stricken, Jones moved to Chicago, where she opened a dressmaking shop. Then, in 1871, the great Chicago fire destroyed her home and business. Attracted by their campaign to improve conditions for workers, Jones turned to the Knights of Labor for help.

A few years later, a financial panic gripped the nation. Millions lost their jobs. Those who had a job struggled against poor working conditions and low pay. Angered by what she saw as cruel treatment of workers, Jones became active in the Knights of Labor.

Traveling across the nation, Jones helped organize workers, especially in the coal industry. She convinced laborers to strike for better working conditions, higher wages, and shorter hours. In her fiery speeches, she told

large crowds of workers that the United States was a "great and enlightened country" that was being abused by what she called "the Rockefeller gang of thieves."

Jones actively supported legislation to prohibit child labor. During a textile strike in Philadelphia, she pointed to a group of child workers. "Philadelphia mansions were built on the broken bones, the quivering hearts and drooping heads of these children," she stormed.

Mary Jones died in 1930, at the age of 100. An unknown writer honored her with a song called "The Death of Mother Jones":

This grand old champion of labor has gone to a better land,

But the hard-working miners, they miss her guiding hand.

*Jones convinced laborers to strike for better working conditions, higher wages, and shorter hours.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mary Jones: Labor Reformer

*Directions: Circle the best answer.*

1. What is the most likely definition of wretch [found in the first paragraph]?
  - a. Homeless
  - b. Fortunate
  - c. Sufferer
  - d. Criminal
2. Why was Mary Jones nicknamed "Mother Jones"?
  - a. She lost her four children to yellow fever.
  - b. She felt anger on the sight of the cold and hungry.
  - c. She was fighting for better working conditions.
  - d. She supported coal workers with a guiding hand.
3. In paragraph 8, Jones is quoted saying, "Philadelphia mansions were built on the broken bones...of these children." Why does Jones reference Philadelphia mansions in her strong statement?
  - a. The strike she was working on took place in Philadelphia.
  - b. She connected the abuse of children in factories to the success of Philadelphia's elite.
  - c. She believed that children should not be allowed to work in factories.
  - d. She was referencing the many injuries suffered by children in factories.
4. Explain how Mary Jones supported labor reform during the late 1800s. Use two pieces of text evidence to support your answer. Remember: Answer with an inference, Evidence, Evidence.

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Check your answer: Is your inference clearly answering the prompt? Are your supporting details directly from the text?



CHAPTER *Milestone*

18

Working on the Railroad

The linking of the nation by railroad was accomplished by building two great rail lines—the Central Pacific and the Union Pacific. Much of the labor for this twin undertaking was provided by Chinese and Irish immigrants. Read the paragraphs below. Then, on a separate sheet of paper, answer the questions that follow.

The Central Pacific began work on the west to east portion of the transcontinental railroad in 1863. Wages were low and the work was backbreaking. It quickly became clear that the company would have a hard time attracting the workers it needed to complete the job.

During a strike, the company hired Chinese—many of whom had come to California during the Gold Rush—to take the strikers' place. Finding the Chinese disciplined and dependable, the company also sent recruiters to China to hire more workers. In the end, of the 12,000 men who built the Central Pacific spur of the transcontinental railroad, 10,000 were Chinese.

Life was often very difficult for Chinese workers in the United States. The Chinese were paid less than other workers—about \$26 a month compared to \$35 for other workers. They were also given the worst lodgings, with six or more men crowded into a tent.

Chinese workers were assigned the most menial, labor-intensive, and dangerous jobs. During the laying of track through the Sierra Nevada, Chinese workers were lowered in baskets down the sheer rock cliffs. They drilled holes in the rock, filled them with explosives, and lit the fuse. Many men were

killed by the resulting blasts. Others fell to their death when the ropes holding the baskets broke.

Workers who complained were often beaten. In 1867, 2,000 Chinese workers went on strike to protest working conditions. The company broke the strike, however, by withholding food and water until the strikers returned to work.

Meanwhile, poor Irish immigrants eagerly accepted employment on the Union Pacific railroad. Like the Chinese railroad workers in the West, the Irish endured harsh conditions and overwork. A grim saying among railroad workers stated that there was "an Irishman buried under every tie."

*A grim saying among railroad workers stated that there was "an Irishman buried under every tie."*

To house the Irish workers, the Union Pacific built special railroad cars just over 8 feet long, 10 feet wide, and 8 feet high. The cars were fitted with three tiers of bunks along each side. The men ate, slept, and lived in these windowless cars.

The daily work of laying the rails was grueling. Each man was trained for a specific task, and the men worked together with the precision of machines. Said the owner of the Union Pacific, "It was the best-organized, best-equipped, and best-disciplined work force I have ever seen."

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Working on the Railroad

Directions: Circle the best answer.

5. What is the most likely definition of strike, as it is found in this passage [found in the paragraphs 2 and 5]?
- a. Refuse to work
  - b. Attack another person
  - c. Hit someone
  - d. Die on the job
6. Why was there a rush of Chinese immigrants to America?
- a. The Union Pacific Railroad offered them jobs.
  - b. The Central Pacific Railroad offered them jobs.
  - c. American offered a high quality lifestyle.
  - d. They would be paid \$26 a month for their work on the railroad.
7. In paragraph 6, the author quotes a railroad worker saying that state there was, "an Irishman buried under every tie." What did the railroad workers mean by this saying?
- a. Irishmen dressed well and often wore ties on the job.
  - b. Irishmen were not competitive people.
  - c. Irishmen formed strong bonds with one another on the job.
  - d. Many Irishmen died from dangers on the job.

8. Explain how minorities (Chinese and Irish) were treated differently than most white Americans. Use two pieces of text evidence to support your answer. Remember: Answer with an inference, Evidence, Evidence.

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Check your answer: Is your inference clearly answering the prompt? Are your supporting details directly from the text? S/b

