

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

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

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

Date Due: Tomorrow Thursday 3/6

# Lesson 4

## Workers in Industrial Age



### The Industrial Age

#### Lesson 4 Workers in the Industrial Age

##### ESSENTIAL QUESTION

*How does technology change the way people live and work?*

##### GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *How did working conditions change during the Industrial Age?*
2. *Why did workers form labor unions?*

##### Terms to Know

**sweatshop** a shop or factory where workers work long hours at low wages under unhealthy conditions

**labor union** organization of workers who seek better pay and working conditions

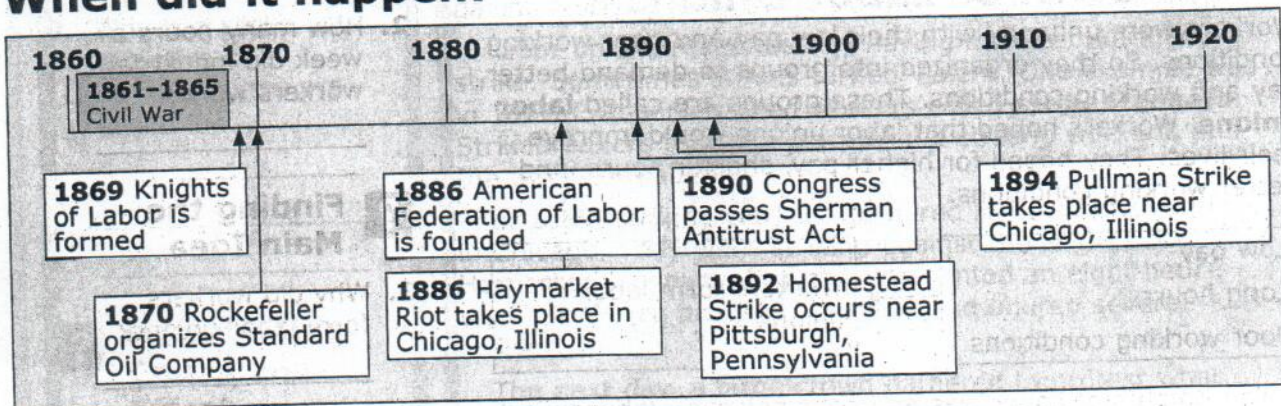
**collective bargaining** discussion between an employer and labor union representatives about wages, hours, and working conditions

**strikebreaker** person hired to replace a striking worker in order to break up a strike

**injunction** a court order to stop something from happening

*★ Complete All Questions*

#### When did it happen?



## The Industrial Age

### Lesson 4 Workers in the Industrial Age, *Continued*

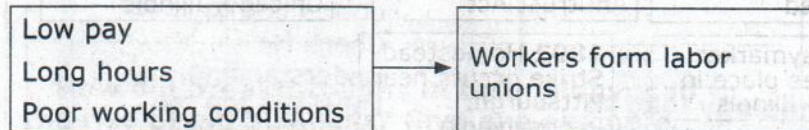
#### The Industrial Workforce

Industrial growth created many jobs, but the working conditions were terrible. Industrial workers labored six days a week for 10 to 12 hours a day. (Today, workers usually work five days a week, eight hours a day, for a total of 40 hours.) They worked in unsafe and unhealthy factories and mines. Garment workers worked in crowded and dangerous factories called **sweatshops**.

By 1900, more than one million women worked in industry. Women were paid about half of what men were paid for the same work. Hundreds of thousands of children under 16 also worked. Many children worked more than ten hours a day.

#### The Growth of Labor Unions

Workers were unhappy with their low pay and poor working conditions. So they organized into groups to demand better pay and working conditions. These groups are called **labor unions**. Workers hoped that labor unions would improve their lives. They hoped for higher pay, shorter hours, and better working conditions.



The Knights of Labor was an important early labor union. It was founded in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1869. By the 1880s, the Knights of Labor had grown to be a national union. Unlike other unions, the Knights welcomed women, African Americans, immigrants, and unskilled laborers as members. Terrence V. Powderly led the Knights of Labor. The union had more than 700,000 members in the 1880s.

The American Federation of Labor (AFL) was another important labor organization. It was formed in 1886. The AFL represented skilled workers of many kinds. Its leader was Samuel Gompers. Gompers and the AFL worked for higher wages, shorter hours, and better working conditions. They fought for the right of collective bargaining. **Collective bargaining** is when unions discuss with business owners ways to improve wages and conditions for all the company's workers.

Many unions would not let women join. So some women formed their own unions. Some women became important labor leaders. One such leader was Mary Harris Jones.

#### Describing

- Write three words that describe factory working conditions during the late 1800s.

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#### Reading Check

- How many hours a week did industrial workers work?

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#### Finding the Main Idea

- Why did workers form labor unions?

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#### Mark the Text

- Circle the name of the union that was founded in 1869. Who was its leader?

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#### Identifying

- What does AFL stand for?

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**The Industrial Age**

**Lesson 4 Workers in the Industrial Age, *Continued***

**? Determining Cause and Effect**

6. Why did so many people die in the Triangle Shirtwaist Company fire?

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**? Critical Thinking**

7. Why is a strike not effective if strikebreakers are called in?

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**? Determining Cause and Effect**

8. Name two effects of the Haymarket Riot.

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**? Sequencing**

9. What happened at Andrew Carnegie's factory *just after* the governor sent soldiers to protect the strikebreakers?

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Workers called her "Mother Jones" because she fought so hard for their rights. Mother Jones spent 50 years fighting for workers' rights.

In 1911 a terrible fire broke out at a women's clothing factory in New York City. The factory was owned by the Triangle Shirtwaist Company. (A shirtwaist is a type of woman's blouse.) The factory was a sweatshop. The workers were mostly young immigrant women. They could not escape the fire. Why? The company had locked the doors. Nearly 150 people died. This fire led to more demands for safer workplaces. A union called the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union (ILGWU) led these demands.

Economic depression hit working people hard in the 1870s and 1890s. In 1873, companies cut their costs by paying workers less. Some companies laid off workers.

Labor unions responded by having many workers go on strike. Sometimes strikes turned violent. One example was in 1877. Companies hired workers called **strikebreakers**. (scabs) Strikebreakers took the place of the striking workers, and the work continued.

In 1886, striking workers gathered in Haymarket Square in Chicago. They were striking against the McCormick Harvester Company. The strikers wanted an eight-hour workday. Police broke up the rally and injured several strikers.

The next day, a large crowd gathered to protest what had happened to the workers. The police tried hard to break up the crowd.

Someone threw a bomb, which killed a policeman. A riot started, and more people were killed and injured. This event is known as the Haymarket Riot. It turned many people against labor unions. It made people think that labor unions caused violence.

Another important strike took place in 1892. Workers went on strike at Andrew Carnegie's steel plant in Homestead, Pennsylvania. The strikers were protesting cuts to their wages.

The managers of the plant hired strikebreakers. They were not members of the union. The managers hired guards to protect the strikebreakers. The guards and striking workers fought, and at least ten people died.

Pennsylvania's governor sent soldiers to protect the strikebreakers. The plant reopened with nonunion workers. Membership in the steelworkers union dropped.

**The Industrial Age**

**Lesson 4 Workers in the Industrial Age, Continued**

Two years later, in 1894, there was another dramatic, violent strike. It is called the Pullman Strike because it took place at George Pullman's railway-car factory near Chicago.

Pullman's workers went on strike when the company cut their wages. Members of a railroad workers' union helped the strikers. They refused to take care of trains that included Pullman cars.

Pullman and the railroad owners fought back. They convinced government leaders to get an **injunction**. This was a court order. It forced the union to handle the trains. The government said the union workers were blocking the railways "and holding up the mails." The strike went on, however. President Grover Cleveland sent in soldiers to end the strike.

The failure of the Pullman Strike was another blow to the union movement. Still, workers continued their efforts to get better pay and better working conditions.

**Check for Understanding**

Identify three things that labor unions tried to change.

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Why did unions become more popular during the Industrial Age?

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Glue Foldable here

**Explaining**

**10.** Why did the government order railroad workers to take care of all trains?

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**Reading Check**

**11.** Why did many people turn against unions in the late 1800s?

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**FOLDABLES**

**12.** Place a three-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover Check for Understanding. Label the top tab *Employers*, the middle tab *Labor Unions* and the bottom tab *Employees*. On the the tabs, write words and phrases that you remember about each and explain how Labor Unions were in the middle of these two groups. Use your Foldable to help answer Check for Understanding.

EXTRA CREDIT

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