

# Northwest History Consortium

## Child Labor Laws

**Leslie Miller**  
**11<sup>th</sup> Grade**

### National Standard

**Era 7: The Emergence of Modern America (1890-1930) / Standard 1**

*Standard 1: How Progressives and others addressed problems of industrial capitalism, urbanization, and political corruption*

### **BACKGROUND**

This PBL will take place after a unit of study that covers industrialization/immigration and the labor movement in the United States.

Students need to have a basic knowledge of the concept of economic sanctions.

Students will also have prior knowledge of the criteria that constitutes a reliable resource and must be able to evaluate the resources that they use.

Warning! – Some of the resources provided in this lesson are not quality resources! Students must be able to detect these resources and to explain why they are not a quality resource.

### **PROBLEM**

Should the United States impose economic sanctions on countries that allow child labor?

### **SCENARIO**

The President of the United States is being pressured by the AFL-CIO to impose economic sanctions on countries that allow the practice of child labor. The CEO's of several companies, such as Nike and Hershey's, are claiming that child labor is a necessary aspect of the economy of these countries and that imposing economic sanctions will cause many children to either starve or turn to prostitution to stay alive.

You are part of the President's staff. He wants you and your team to look into this problem. He wants to know why this issue is so important to the AFL-CIO. He is wondering if they are genuinely worried about the children who are the victims or if they have an ulterior motive. He also wants to know what is at stake for the CEO's of the companies, such as Nike and Hershey's, and what their ulterior motive is as well.

### **TASKS**

1. You and your team will choose either the AFL-CIO's proposal to defend or the position of the CEO's of the Nike and Hershey's Companies. You will provide the US President with a report of your defense and other possible solutions to the problem of child labor.

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2. You will justify all solutions that you present by:
  - a. Providing evidence of the root causes of child labor in the country that you choose to research
  - b. Creating a graph that compares and contrasts the child labor situation in the country that you choose to research, along with the child labor situation that existed in the United States during the labor movement to give the US President a frame of reference.
  - c. Comparing your solution with examples of actions that were taken in the United States to fight this problem that either worked or didn't work.
3. Two of the teams will then debate the positions held by the AFL-CIO and the CEO's.
4. The US President will choose two of the possible solutions that each team presented to the problem and will have the two other teams argue for the implementation of their solutions in another debate.
5. The President of the United States also wants to make sure that your team got their information from reliable resources. You will need to provide the President with a list of the resources that you used in your research and a short evaluation of the reliability of each resource. Make sure to document each resource in your report to the President and be prepared to justify statements made during the debates by referring to the source of the information that you are presenting.

#### RESOURCES

##### Internet

"Bangladesh." 15 Dec. 2010. Unicef.Org. ©Unicef. New York, NY. 13 December 2010 <[http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/bangladesh\\_23540.html](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/bangladesh_23540.html)>.

"Bangladesh." 10 September 2009. The United States Department of Labor. Washington, DC. 13 December 2010 <<http://www.dol.gov/ilab/media/reports/iclp/sweat/bangladesh.htm>>.

Chanthavong, Samlanchith. "Chocolate and Slavery: Child Labor in Cote d'Ivoire." Jan. 2001. American University (TED Case Studies: #664, 2002). ©American University. Washington, DC. 13 December 2010 <<http://www1.american.edu/ted/chocolate-slave.htm>>.

"Child Labour." 2010. Free The Children. ©2010 Free The Children. Toronto, Ontario, Canada. 13 December 2010 <<http://www.freethechildren.com/getinvolved/youth/issues/index.php?type=childlabour&gclid=CMXR8oCc-qICFRIVgwodEkz4jw>>.

"Child Labour in Bangladesh." Sustainable Development Networking Programme. New York, NY. 13 December 2010 <[http://www.bdix.net/sdnbd\\_org/world\\_env\\_day/2001/sdnweb/sdi/international\\_day/childrens\\_day/bd&childlabor.htm#1](http://www.bdix.net/sdnbd_org/world_env_day/2001/sdnweb/sdi/international_day/childrens_day/bd&childlabor.htm#1)>.

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"Department of Labor's List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor." 10 September 2009. The United States Department of Labor. Washington, DC. 13 December 2010 <<http://www.dol.gov/ilab/programs/ocft/pdf/2009tvpra.pdf>>.

Salah, Dr. Rima. "Child Trafficking in West and Central Africa." 19 - 23 Feb. 2001. Unicef.Org. ©Unicef. New York, NY. 13 December 2010 <<http://www.unicef.org/media/newsnotes/africchildtraffick.pdf>>.

"Subregional Information System on Child Labour." 26 October 2009. International Labour Organization. ©1996 - 2010. Geneva, Switzerland. 13 December 2010 <<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/newdelhi/ipec/responses/bangladesh/index.htm>>.

"Welcome to Child Labor Public Education Project." Continue to Learn (University of Iowa). ©2010 University of Iowa. Iowa City, IA. 13 December 2010 <[http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/laborctr/child\\_labor/](http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/laborctr/child_labor/)>.

### ASSESSMENT

**Possible total points - 100**

#### Report & Possible Solutions

Criteria	1 - 5 points
Grammar and spelling	
Information is presented logically.	
Defensive position is supported with evidence from research.	
Solutions are supported with evidence from research.	
Sources are cited.	
Bibliography is included.	
<b>Total</b>	

#### Evaluation of Web Resources

Criteria	1 - 5 points
URL address	
Date of resource, timeliness	
Qualifications of author	
Contact information	
Possibility of bias	
Working links	
Accuracy of information	
<b>Total</b>	

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### Debate Rubric

Criteria	1 – 5 Points
Delivery	
Organization	
Arguments	
Evidence	
Opening	
Rebuttal	
Closing	
Totals	

### REFERENCES/CITATIONS

“History Standards for Grades 5-12 United States.” UCLA National Center for History in the Schools. 2005. Los Angeles, CA. 13 December 2010 <<http://nchs.ucla.edu/standards/us-standards5-12.html>>.

Miller, Leslie. “Child Labor Laws.” NWESD Organization. 2009. Anacortes, WA. 13 December 2010 <[http://www.nwesd.org/1510101216191755740/lib/1510101216191755740/7.1\\_Child.Labor.Laws.Miller.11.pdf](http://www.nwesd.org/1510101216191755740/lib/1510101216191755740/7.1_Child.Labor.Laws.Miller.11.pdf)>.