

REFORMING CITIES & THE WORKPLACE

THE BIG IDEA

- Growing cities couldn't provide people necessary services like garbage collection, safe housing, and police and fire protection.
- Reformers saw this as an opportunity to expand public health services.





A family of seven in a one room apartment, Starr Centre Association of Philadelphia, c 1910





425



THE TENEMENT ACT OF 1901

- Passed to improve the living conditions in the cities.
- Improvements:
 - Lighting in public hallways
 - Providing at least one toilet per two families
 - Banning of outhouses
- Created a healthier environment.
- Death rate dropped drastically.

REFORMING THE WORKPLACE

- By 1900, labor unions fought for adult male workers but didn't help women and children.
- Businesses fought labor laws in the Supreme Court, which ruled on several cases in the early 1900s concerning workday length.

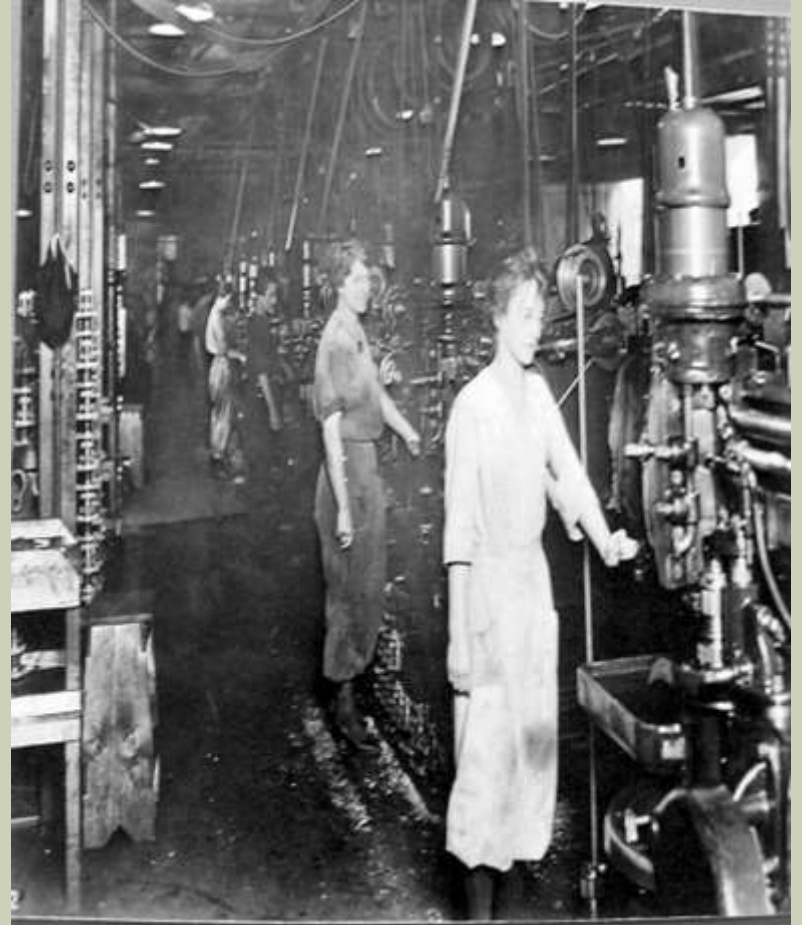
CHILD LABOR

- States did not enforce child labor laws.
- Many factories exploited child labor.



WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE

- Progressives mounted state campaigns to limit workdays for women.
 - Mildly successful.



IMPACT OF THE PROGRESSIVE ERA

- The Progressive movement inspired future generations to challenge unfair systems and continue to fight for civil rights.

TRIANGLE SHIRT WAIST FIRE

- In 1911, a disaster in New York inspired progressives to fight for safety in the workplace.
- About 500 women worked for the Triangle Shirtwaist Company, a high-rise building sweatshop that made women's blouses.



FIRE LEADS TO REFORM

- Just as they were ending their six-day workweek, a small fire broke out, which quickly spread to three floors.
- Escape nearly impossible, as doors were locked
- The fire escape broke
- Fire was too high for fire truck ladders to reach.
- More than 140 women and men died in the fire



TRIANGLE FIRE

- On a sheet of paper, you will compile a list of everything that went wrong with the fire/what could have been done to prevent the fire from being the disaster.
- When the video finishes, you will write 6-8 sentences as a progressive reforming proposing a solution to the workplace problems.
 - You are creating a law or laws to reform the workplace.
- You will then write a 6-8 sentence opinion paragraph about the owners of the factory in terms of if they should be found at fault/guilty for the deaths of the women.
 - Remember there were no laws in place about workplace safety at the time.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mjZswKnYLUk>