

# Labor & Factory Workers

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# EXAMPLE #1

## The Bitter Cry of the Children

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- Silently read and complete the section in your notes.



# Life as a Factory Worker

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- How did life as a factory worker differ from life working in a small shop?
  - Relationship with boss
  - Relationship with product



# The Work Environment

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- Factory workers worked by the clock – up to 16 hours a day, sometimes 7 days a week.
- Workers could be fired for being late, talking, or refusing to do a task.
- Workplaces were often unsafe.
- Children often performed unsafe work and worked in dangerously unhealthy conditions.

# Thinking of Complaining?

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- Many companies required workers to take oaths or sign contracts promising not to join a union.
- They hired detectives to identify union organizers.
- Workers who tried to organize were fired and placed on a blacklist, and no one would hire them.



# Working Families

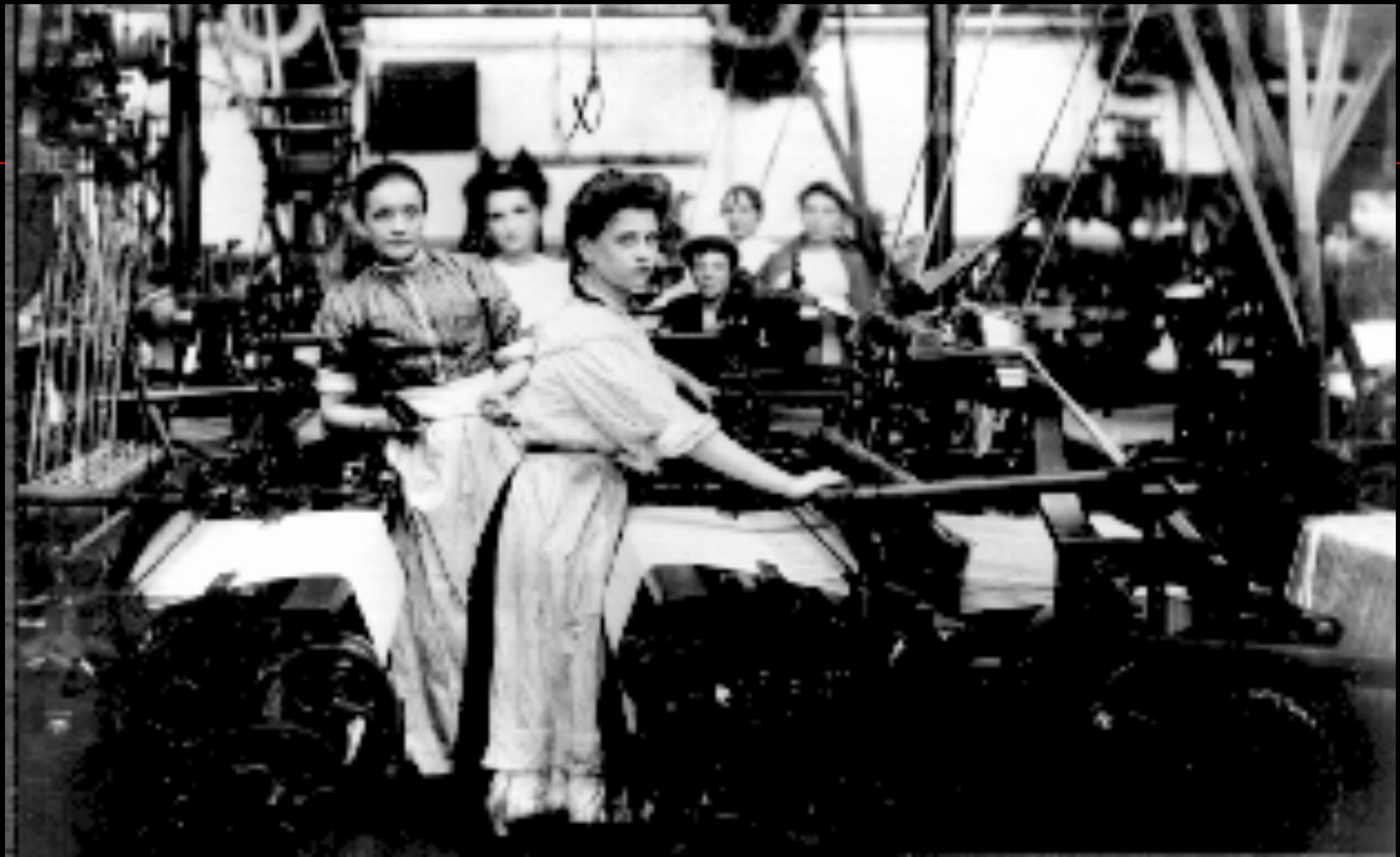
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- In the 1880s, children made up more than 5% of the industrial labor force.
- Children often left school at the age of 12 or 13 to work
- Girls sometimes took factory jobs so their brothers could stay in school.
- If an adult became too ill to work, children as young as 6 or 7 had to work.
- Rarely did the government provide public assistance, and unemployment insurance didn't exist.
- The theory of Social Darwinism held that poverty resulted from personal weakness. Many thought that offering relief to the unemployed would encourage idleness.











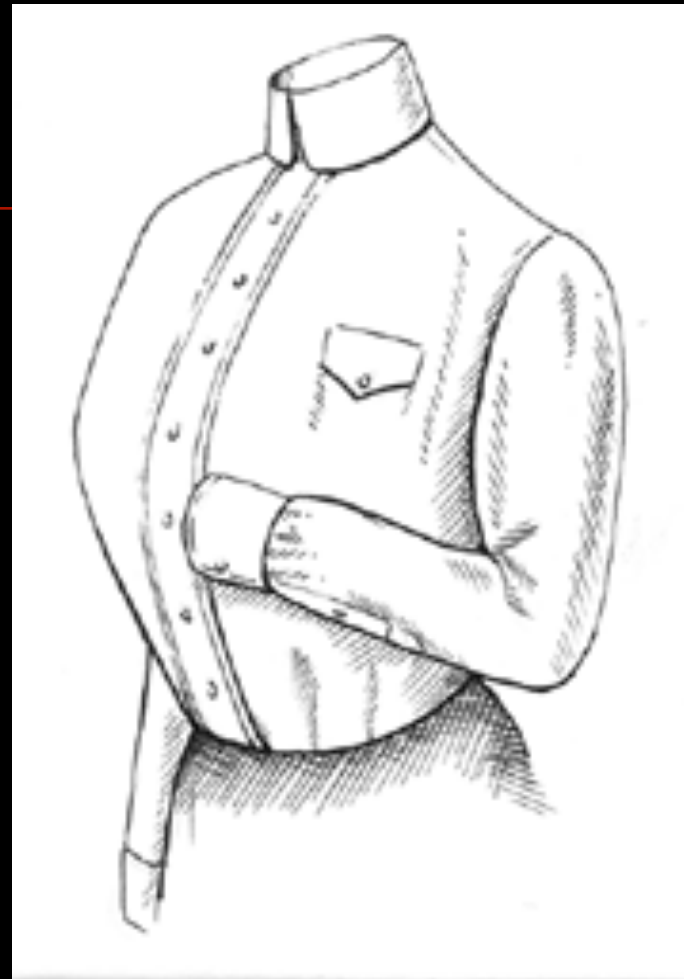
# EXAMPLE #2

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- The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire
- The Story
- <https://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Triangle-Shirtwaist-Fire>





























14. Viewing the unfortunates at the Morgue

# The Aftermath

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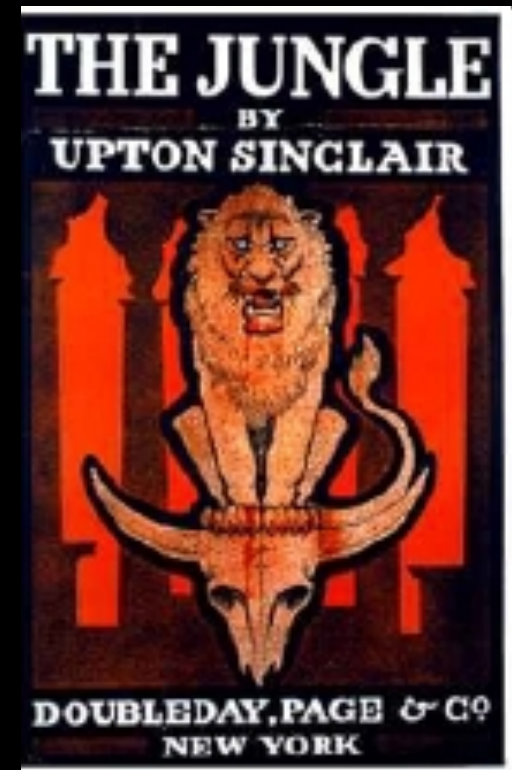
- March 25, 1911
- 146 died
- Max Blanck and Isaac Harris acquitted
- Their factory with the exact same conditions opens several months later



# EXAMPLE #3

## Meat Packing Plants

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2ppaJwQ9UM>
- *Upton Sinclair*
- *Wrote The Jungle*
- Exposed the unsanitary meat-packing industry
- Exposed harsh working condition too







265 Splitting backbones and final inspection — hogs ready for cooler, Swift & Co., Chicago, U.S.A. Copyright 1906 by H. O. White Co.



# “The Jungle”

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- Read the excerpt from “The Jungle”
- Fill in the chart and answer the questions associated with the text



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- All of the problems with the Gilded Age that we have discussed so far, combined with the problems of big business, labor, and factory workers, leads to.....

- THE PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT!!!