

Industry in New Hampshire

Suggested Activities

Other documents mentioned here are available on the N.H Historical Society's Web site (<http://www.nhhistory.org>) and on its CD-ROM.

1. Discussion:
 - Have you ever gone on a trip without your mother and father? What would traveling by yourself be like?
 - Your family needs additional income so you are going to work in a nearby town or city. How would you feel going off by yourself to a larger town or city to work? What are some of the problems or issues with which you would have to deal? What are some of the jobs that might be available to someone your age?
 - You will receive an hourly wage for your work. If you were living on your own, what would you have to pay for?

Note: Teachers should refer to the bibliography for sources to use in guiding the above discussion.
2. Have students bring a hand-made and a machine-object in from home. The hand-made object might be a home craft item. The machine-made object can be anything used in daily life today including such things as a piece of clothing or a writing implement.
3. Design an invention that could be used to improve the way a product is made. Draw a diagram and write a paragraph to explain what the invention will do and how it will work.
4. Look at the "Time Table of the Lowell Mills." Write a letter home about your life in the city and work in the mill. How does the day at the mill differ from a day on the farm? How is it the same? What would you do for fun?
5. Read the "Regulations for the Amoskeag Manufacturing Co."
6. Items to read aloud: distribute "Poverty Knock" and "Hard Times Cotton Mill Girls." The rhythm of the looms is duplicated in the rhythm of the poems.
7. Read "Regulations for Boarding Houses of the Middlesex Company." Why do you think these rules were necessary? How do they compare with rules of behavior in your own household? How do you think the workers felt about these rules? What rules do you have at home? at school? Why are rules important?

8. Review the major factors needed for factory production: standardized or regulated time, labor, natural resources, power, inventions, a market, transportation, capital or money.
 - What do people in your town do for a living? What factories or industries exist? If there aren't factories, how do people get manufactured or machine-made goods?
 - How have the ways people earn a living in your town changed since the 1800s?
 - Why have these changes taken place?
 - What industries or businesses does your town depend upon for jobs today?

Possible Post-Visit Activities

1. What has been the impact of manufacturing on your town? Include landscape, water use, employment, cost of living, transportation. Compare the advantages and disadvantages of industrialization.
2. Visit a local factory to learn about the issues of production that are important today such as robotics, foreign competition, labor costs, and the need to keep making changes to be competitive and cost effective.
3. Talk to government officials about their roles in business and industry today. How do they try to help local factories solve their problems? Talk about "New Hampshire's advantage." (See *Concord-Monitor* [Sunday, August 9, 1998], p. A-1.)
4. Visit the Belknap Mill in Laconia to role-play the key people involved in production at that mill.