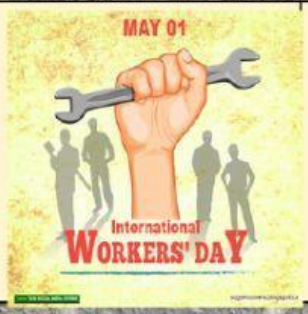


INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY

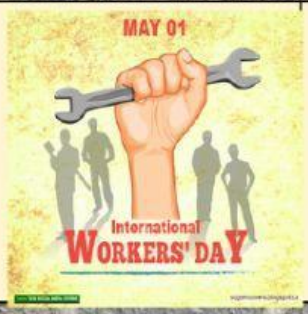
WHY DO WE NEED INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY?

INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY IS A CELEBRATION OF WORKING PEOPLE AND A DAY WHEN PEOPLE
CAMPAIGN FOR DECENT WORK AND DECENT SALARIES. IN THE PAST WORKERS FOUGHT FOR RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS LIKE:

- MINIMUM SALARIES
- LIMITS ON WORKING HOURS
- THE RIGHT TO PAID HOLIDAYS AND SICK DAYS.

IN RECENT YEARS, WORKING CONDITIONS IN MANY SITUATIONS HAVE GOT WORSE. SINCE THE
GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS OF 2008 AND THE PANDEMIC OF 2020, PART-TIME, SHORT-TERM AND BADLY PAID WORK HAS BECOME MORE COMMON. COMPANIES HIRE WORKERS CASUALLY FOR ONE SHORT JOB AT A TIME. THESE WORKERS DON'T HAVE THE USUAL RIGHTS TO PAID HOLIDAYS, THE MINIMUM SALARIES, ETC. SOLIDARITY WITH OTHER WORKERS IS VERY IMPORTANT NOW.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

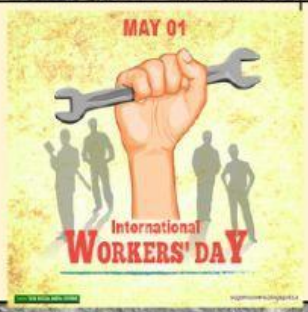


INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY

THE HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY

IN MAY 1886, 400,000 WORKERS IN MANY PARTS OF THE USA WENT ON STRIKE, DEMANDING AN EIGHT-HOUR WORKING DAY. THE STRIKE STARTED PEACEFULLY, BUT ON THE THIRD DAY OF PROTESTS IN CHICAGO
THERE WAS SOME VIOLENCE. THE POLICE SHOT AT WORKERS, KILLING MANY OF THEM. THE
NEXT DAY THERE WERE MORE PROTESTS AND SOMEONE THREW A BOMB. SEVEN POLICE OFFICERS AND
FOUR WORKERS WERE KILLED BY THE BOMB OR POLICE SHOOTING JUST AFTER THE BOMB. THE PERSON WHO
THREW THE BOMB WAS NEVER IDENTIFIED, BUT EIGHT WORKERS WERE ARRESTED. SEVEN OF THEM WERE
SENTENCED TO DEATH, AND ONE OF THEM WAS SENT TO PRISON FOR 15 YEARS. THIS EVENT, KNOWN AS THE HAYMARKET AFFAIR, WAS VERY IMPORTANT IN BRINGING WORKING PEOPLE
TOGETHER IN THE USA. MANY PEOPLE DIDN'T BELIEVE THE MEN WERE GUILTY, AND THE TRIAL WAS
CRITICISED FOR BEING UNFAIR. THE HAYMARKET AFFAIR BECAME AN INTERNATIONAL SYMBOL OF THE
FIGHT FOR WORKERS' RIGHTS, AND MAY 1 WAS CHOSEN TO BE INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY.
THE EIGHT-HOUR WORKING DAY BECAME LAW FOR PUBLIC WORKERS IN 1892 IN THE USA. SINCE THEN, WORKERS' MOVEMENTS ALL OVER THE WORLD HAVE CONTINUED TO FIGHT FOR AND WIN THIS RIGHT. IN ARGENTINA, THIS LAW WAS PASSED IN 1929 BY THE THEN PRESIDENT HIPOLITO YRIGOYEN.

LIVEWORKSHEETS



INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY

NOW ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS:

1. NOWADAYS, A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE BASIC PROTECTION AND RIGHTS WHERE THEY WORK BECAUSE WORKERS TOOK ACTION IN THE PAST. TRUE / FALSE

2. SINCE 2008, WORKING CONDITIONS HAVE BECOME MUCH BETTER FOR A LOT OF WORKERS. TRUE / FALSE

3. IN MAY 1886, MANY WORKERS IN THE USA DECIDED TO TAKE ACTION BECAUSE THEY THOUGHT THEY WERE WORKING TOO MANY HOURS. TRUE / FALSE

4. THE HAYMARKET AFFAIR HAD THE EFFECT OF DIVIDING WORKING PEOPLE IN THE USA. TRUE / FALSE

5. AN EIGHT-HOUR WORKING DAY HAS CONTINUED TO BE AN IMPORTANT CONDITION FOR WORKERS. TRUE / FALSE

6. MOST PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD CELEBRATE WORKERS' DAY IN THE SAME WAY. TRUE / FALSE

LIVEWORKSHEETS