

Working Kids --

Immigrant Children Working in America (1820-1920)



How old do you think this "sister of a worker" is in a spinning mill from Newberry, South Carolina?

1.



Boys as young as 6 working long hours on dangerous machinery.

Lowell Mills Schedule I

Be prepared to answer questions relating to this historical document. (The Lowell Mills, in Massachusetts, made yarn, thread and cloth.)

2. Based on the schedule, how many hours per week are Lowell Mills' workers expected to work?
3. What meals are provided for the workers?
4. How many meals are provided?
5. What time do workers begin their work day?
6. How long did workers have to eat dinner?
7. What time did they have dinner (what we would probably call lunch)?
8. What time did they get to stop work on all days except Saturdays?
9. What time did they stop working on Saturdays?
10. What time was the first wake up bell going to ring?
11. At what time did the gates first open daily?

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TIME TABLE

1868.

OF THE LOWELL MILLS,

Arranged to make the working time 66 hours per week. The STANDARD TIME will be marked at noon, by the BELL of the MERRIMACK MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

Breakfast,.....at.....	6 A. M.
Commence Work,.....at.....	6.30 A. M.
Dinner,.....at.....	12 M.
Commence Work, after Dinner, at.....	12.45 P. M.
Stop Work, except on Saturday Evenings, at....	6.30 P. M.

BELLS.

Morning Bells.		Dinner Bells.	
First Bell,.....	4.30 A. M.	Ring Out,.....	12.00 M.
Second Bell,.....	5.30 A. M.	Ring in,.....	12.35 P. M.
Third Bell,.....	6.30 A. M.		

Evening Bells.

Ring Out,.....6.30 P. M.Except on Saturday Evenings.

SATURDAY EVENING BELL, 5 P. M.

YARD GATES will be opened at the first stroke of the bells for entering or leaving the Mills.

Speed Gates commence hoisting three minutes before commencing work.

Read *Immigrant Children at Work* and answer the following questions:

12. Immigrants got the highest-paying jobs in the country.
13. Why did mothers and children often end up going to work?
14. How long were children supposed to remain in school?
15. How were many children under the legal age able to go to work?
16. Why did teenagers often lie about their ages?

17. What did “newsies” do?
18. Why would being a “newsie” be a hard job?
19. What was Leonard Covello’s first job?
20. What benefits did Leonard get from having this job?
21. How long was a factory worker’s typical day?
22. How many days a week did factory workers usually work?
23. How did factory managers manage to trick the law regarding child workers?
24. Which of these statements describes a sweatshop?
25. Which of the choices here is an example of a jobs someone might do in a sweatshop?
26. How did sweatshops endanger people’s health?
27. Where might you find a sweatshop?

Read the mill work chart below and answer the questions you see.

28. How much could a man make a week in 1989?
29. Did women make more or less than men at that time?
30. Why do you think children were paid less than adults?

31. Why do you think children were no longer on the chart by 1925? (Think about your life today – how is it different from children's lives back then?)

\$\$\$\$\$Pay chart from Glencoe Textile Mills- Burlington, NC\$\$\$\$\$

While this chart represents only one mill, it is very close to the standard pay scale used by North Carolina's textile mills.

Year	Men Earned	Women Earned	Children Earned
1889 - 11 hour days 66 hours per week 6 days a week	\$1-\$2 dollars per day	50 cents to \$1 per day	40 cents per day
1905 - 10.5 hour days 63 hours per week 6 days a week	75 cents to \$2.75 per day	80 cents to \$1 per day	40 cents per day
1925 - 10 hour days 55 hours per week 5 days and half day Saturday	\$2.10 to \$6.60 per day	\$2.10 to \$2.38 per day	-----