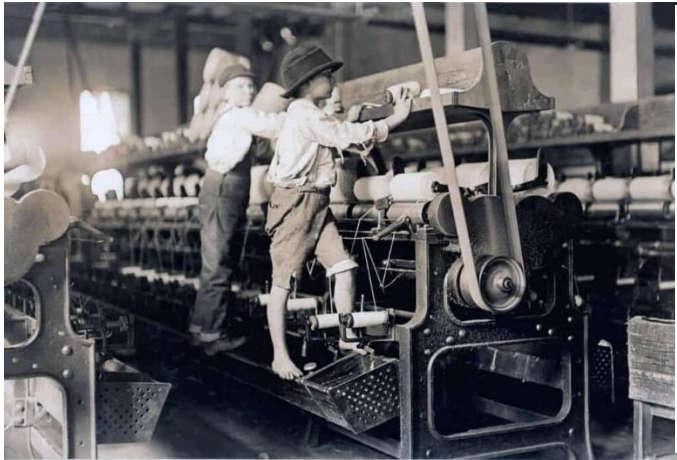


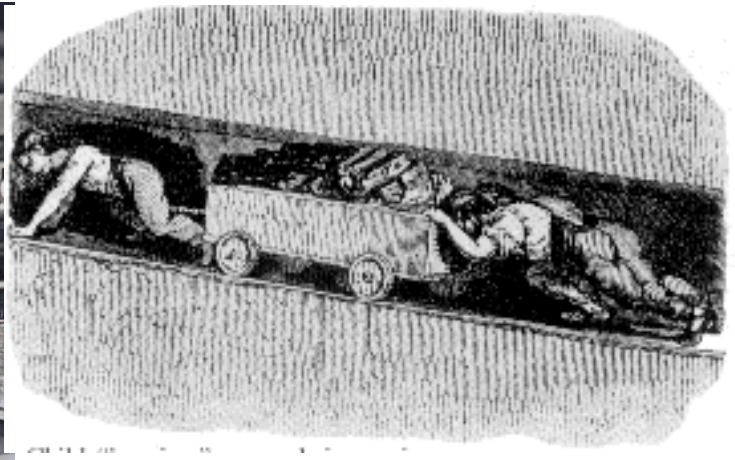
Child Labour Source Analysis

You will need to read the sources listed below (each marked by a letter) and use the information within to answer the questions at the end of the booklet. You can circle, underline, and highlight important info.

Source A: Children use a Power Loom



Source B: Children push a Coal Cart



Source C: Why Children had to Work

The burgeoning industrialization of Great Britain required a large and cheap workforce. Lenient labor laws made children a prime source of workers, and by 1830, children made up 50% of the workforce. Children with parents began their work between the ages of 9 and 14, while orphans could be put to work as young as four. Children worked excessively long hours at the lowest possible rates, earning as little as one-eighth the salary of their adult counterparts. Since many parents would not allow their young children to work in the new textile factories, orphans and extremely impoverished children were purchased by factory owners and required to sign contracts indebting them until the age of 21. Children were forced to work 12 to 16 hour days, living in overcrowded, filthy buildings on the factory property. By the beginning of the nineteenth century, these “pauper apprentices” made up about a third of the cotton industry.

Source D: Chimney Sweeps



Source E: Working Conditions

The youngest children in cotton and textiles factories were used as scavengers and piecers. Scavengers had the extremely dangerous job of picking up the loose cotton from under the machinery while the machines were still working. Piecers were required to lean over the spinning machine to repair threads. Older children were employed to operate and repair heavy machinery and cotton spinning wheels because of their small size and maneuverability. They were often trapped for 12 to 16 hours in cramped rooms with coal fuel machines and little to no ventilation. The children often ate within the dust and debris-infested factories, which increased upper respiratory diseases. Accidents were common; children in textile factories were frequently scalped, maimed, crushed and killed when falling asleep at the machines.

In the coal mines, boys and girls as young as five were put to work in the shafts because of their small bodies. Stripped of most of their clothes and chained to their coal carts, they did dangerous and grueling work underneath the earth. Children also occupied the role of trappers, who sat in a hole holding a string attached to the mine door. When they heard the coal wagons, they were responsible for pulling and holding the heavy doors open. In match factories, children were used to dip matches in phosphorous, which caused their teeth to rot and brought death to those who inhaled too much of the toxic substance. Children were also used as chimney sweepers and chain gang day laborers in the fields.

Source F: Accidents

537. The deaths in mines and on the pit-banks, 349 in number, are as follows :—

Cause of Death.	Under 13 years of age.	13 and not exceeding 18 years of age.	Above 18 years of age.
Fell down the shafts	13	16	31
Fell down the shaft from the rope breaking	1	..	2
Fell out when ascending	..	..	3
Drawn over the pulley	3	..	3
Fall of stone out of a skip down the shaft	1	..	3
Drowned in the mines	3	4	15
Fall of stones, coal, and rubbish in the mines	14	14	69
Injuries in coal-pits, the nature of which is not specified	6	3	32
Crushed in coal-pits	..	1	1
Explosion of gas	13	18	49
Suffocated by choke-damp	..	2	6
Explosion of gunpowder	..	1	3
By tram-waggon	4	5	12
Total	58	62	229

Source G: 1833 Factory Act

In 1833, the British government passed the following laws to stop the dangerous working conditions for children.

- No child workers under 9 years of age,
- Employers must have an age certificate for child workers,
- Children 9-13 years old can't work more than 9 hours a day,
- Children 13-18 years old can't work more than 12 hours a day,
- Children are not to work at night,
- 2 hours schooling each day for children,
- 4 factory inspectors appointed to enforce the law.

Source H: The Huskar Pit Disaster

Huskar Pit was a coal mine in the village of Silkstone Common, near Barnsley. On 4 July 1838 a terrible disaster occurred. The day started hot, bright and sunny but from about 2pm a violent storm raged. Heavy rain fell and nearby streams began to flood.

The rain put out the boiler fire of the steam-powered winding engine so workers underground could not be lifted out of the pit. This meant that just over 40 children, aged between 7 and 17 years old, along with some of the men, were trapped underground. A message was sent for the miners to make their way to the pit bottom, and wait for the boiler to be re-lit, to allow them to be lifted out.

Those working underground were unsure about what was happening. Some thought there was a fire underground or on the pit top. Some people mistook a clap of thunder for an explosion. By this time the children had spent nine hours in darkness and they were desperate to leave.

Fearing for their lives, the children panicked. They ignored advice to stay where they were and attempted to reach the surface by walking out along the drift in Nabbs Wood. (A drift is a sloping tunnel leading to the surface; sometimes called a 'day hole'). As the terrified children tried to make their way to safety, a stream swollen by the heavy rain overflowed into the drift.

The children were washed off their feet and down to the ventilation door through which they had just passed. The water rose and 26 children drowned. The majority of those who died were under twelve years old. Fourteen children managed to fight their way through the water and survived.

The inquest into the disaster was held at the Red Lion Inn, Silkstone by the Sheffield Coroner, Mr Badger. After hearing all of the evidence and the accounts of the survivors, the jury returned a verdict of 'accidental death'.

Questions (Answer on a separate piece of paper and hand that paper in when finished):

1. Using Sources A, B, and D, explain what potential dangers are present in that line of work.
2. Using Source C, explain why children had to work in these times and what types of children worked more than others.
3. Using Sources E and F, explain the types of dangers that were present for child workers.
4. Using Source G, explain how the Factory Act of 1833 tried to help child workers.
5. What are 3 ways that you would add to the Factory Act to better protect child workers?
6. Using Source H, explain how the Huskar Pit Disaster could have been avoided.
7. In paragraph form, use at least 3 different sources to rank how dangerous the following professions were for children: Factory Worker, Coal Miner, Chimney Sweep.