

# Fighting child labour, then and now

## Activity 1 Children at work

The photographs below illustrate the problem of « child labour ». Try to imagine these children's lives.

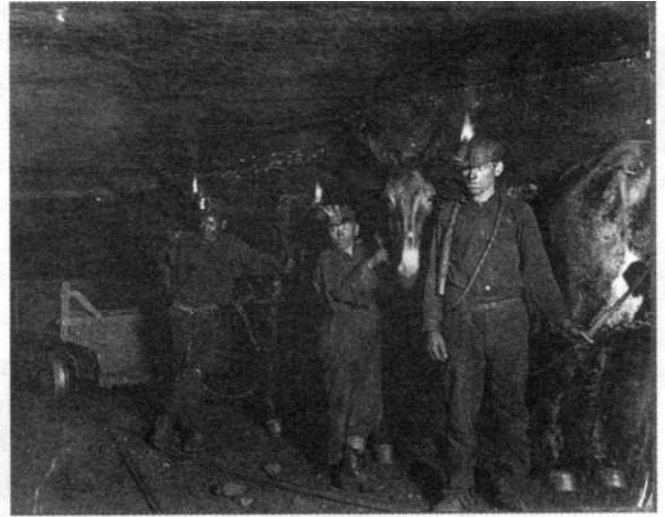
A) things they had to do ? \_\_\_\_\_

B) Things they couldn't do ? \_\_\_\_\_

C) The dangers they faced ? \_\_\_\_\_



Child labourers making glass, Indiana, 1908



Child coal miners in West Virginia, 1908



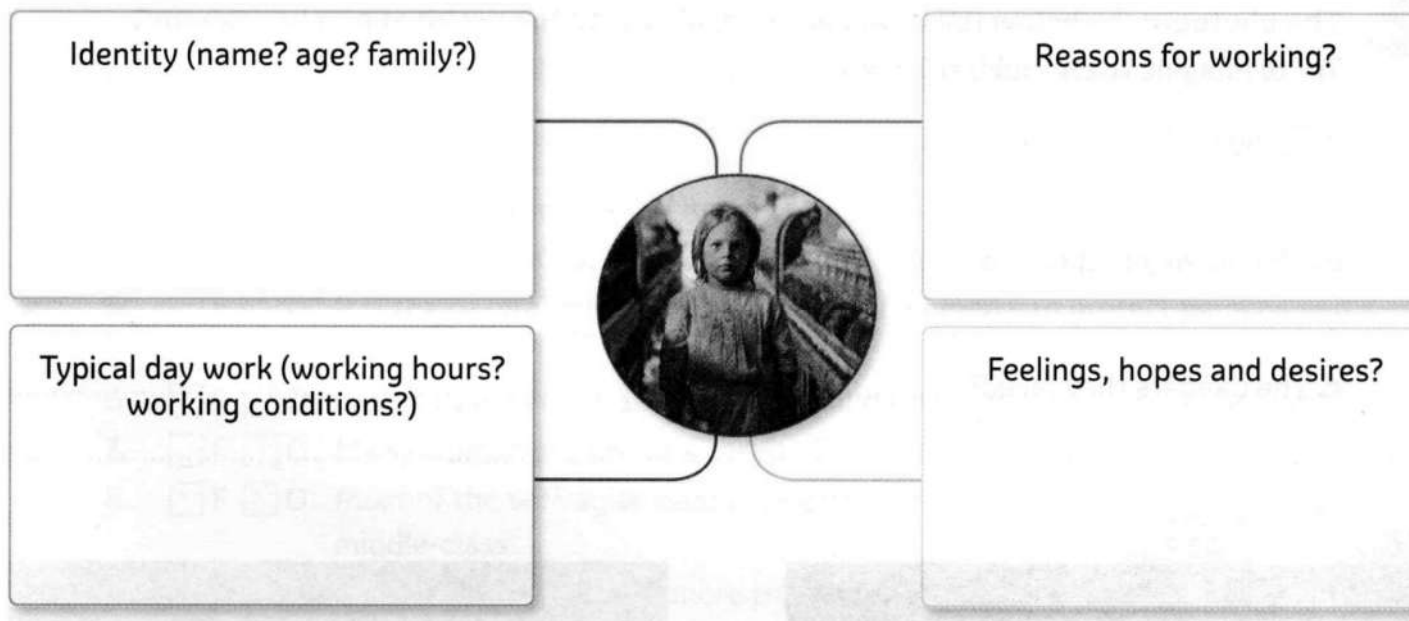
A three-year-old girl and two boys preparing raspberries for the market, Delaware, 1912



Girl in cotton mill, Massachusetts, 1908

## Activity 2 life as a child labourer

A) You are one of the children from the photographs. 20 years after the photo was taken, you remember your childhood and write about it. To help you, complete the following spidergram. *Tu es un des enfants sur les photos et tu te souviens de ton enfance. Complète la carte mentale en premier lieu et rédige ensuite un paragraphe en utilisant les mots et expressions ci-dessous.*



To help you organize your work

### 1. Introduce yourself.

I am... • When I was a child, I was... • I had/didn't have...

### 2. Talk about your typical day work then.

Every day, I started work at... and finished at... • It was difficult because... • I used to... • I had to... • We were not (= weren't /wɜːnt/) allowed to... • I was not (= wasn't) able to... • I didn't have time to...

### 3. Talk about the consequences on your life as an adult. *I never went to school, so...*

### 4. Mention your feelings at the time. *I felt... because...*

#### **Words**

**Nouns:** an orphan /'ɔːfn/ (= a child who lost his/her parents) • little salary/ money • a factory /'fæktəri/: *usine* • a mine • a field: *un champ*

**Adjectives:** hard = difficult/tough = /tʌf/ • sad • exhausted /ɪg'zɔːstɪd/ = extremely tired • exhausting /ɪg'zɔːstɪŋ/ = tiring • dangerous • barefoot (= without shoes) • obedient /ə'biːdiənt/

**Verbs:** shout at • threaten /'θreɪn/: *menacer* • toil = work very hard • support/help their families • get injured = get hurt

## Activity 3 Child labour in the 19th and early 20th century

**Read the text below and use different colours to highlight.**

- A) the working conditions why children worked.
- B) The reason why children worked.
- C) People or organizations fighting child labour.
- D) The effects news laws had the children's working conditions

In the UK, during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, working-class children were often employed in factories and on farms. For many families, it was more important for a child to bring home a salary than to go to school. Children had to work as hard as adults (dangerous working conditions and long hours), but there were no laws to protect them. Employers liked to employ children because they could pay them less than adults and they were easier to discipline. The Church, teachers and many other people were shocked by such cruelty. In England, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) was founded in 1889. English writer Charles Dickens helped publicise the horrors of child labour with his novel *Oliver Twist*. From 1802 to 1878, Britain was the first country to pass laws regulating child labour. These laws made working hours shorter, working conditions better and raised the legal working age. After 1867, no factory or workshop could employ children under eight, and employees between eight and thirteen had the right to 10 hours of education per week. But inspectors often found it difficult to discover the exact age of young workers, and factory owners did not always organise schooling. Gradually, children went to school instead of work and were treated as children instead of 'little adults'.



**Recap what you have learned.**

- 1) In the 19th in the UK \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) So they couldn't \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) They \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) But they \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) As a result \_\_\_\_\_

## Activity 4 Listening to an interview about Child Labour today

*A écouter sur le site du collège ( si possible )*

**A) Anticipate: You are going to listen to Daniela Reale who works for the charity « Save the Children »**

**What do you expect her to say ?**

A) About child labour today:

Where ? \_\_\_\_\_ What sort of job ? \_\_\_\_\_

Why ? \_\_\_\_\_

B) About « save the children »

Objectives ? \_\_\_\_\_

Actions ? \_\_\_\_\_

**B) listen to the interview and complete**

1) Parts of the world mentioned ? Circle the correct answers

China

Asia

India

Indonesia

Africa

South Africa

2) Match your answers from A) to the correct information ( *le pays ou le continent* )

\_\_\_\_\_ : the highest percentage of children that work.

\_\_\_\_\_ : the worst forms of child labour.

\_\_\_\_\_ : the highest number of working children

3) Why do these children work ? Circle the correct answers

Expreme poverty

conflicts

disasters

to buy food

to contribute to their families

survival

to buy medicine for relatives who are sick

to pay for school

4) Recap information (*résume en anglais ce que tu as compris* )

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