

Kids At Work: Lewis Hine and the Crusade Against Child Labor

By Russell Freedman

Characters:

Lewis Hine - New York City schoolteacher and photographer. Grew up in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Frank Manny - Professor of Education at State Normal College in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Sara Ann Rich - Lewis Hine's wife.

Questions:

- What type of book is "Kids At Work?" (Biography)
- What time did Manuel get up in the morning to go to the fish cannery? (3 am)
- About how many child laborers were working in the early 20th century? (About 2 million)
- Where are some other places where children worked? (coal mines, cotton mills, cotton fields, factories)
- What were some of Lewis Hine's early jobs? (furniture factory, cut firewood, deliver packages for clothing store, sold water filters, bank janitor, bank secretary)
- What was Lewis Hine's goal? (To persuade people to demand laws to change working conditions for children.) How did he persuade them? (He showed them pictures)
- Why did Lewis Hine move from Wisconsin to New York? (To be a teacher)
- Why did Lewis Hine go to Ellis Island? (To photograph immigrants)
- How many photographs did Lewis Hine collect at Ellis Island? (About 200)
- Where did Lewis Hine witness extreme poverty and hardship? (Tenement apartments in New York City where many poor immigrant families lived.)
- In which book did someone say, "Seeing is believing."?
- In which book did someone say, "I felt that I was merely changing my educational efforts from the classroom to the world."?
- What job did Lewis Hine take in 1908 that enabled him to travel the country taking pictures? (Investigative photographer for the National Child Labor Committee)
- What did the NCLC want to do? (Ban employment for kids under 14, limit work to 8 hours per day, and require kids to attend school)

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- In which book was a little man with a big box camera regarded as a troublemaker?
- How did Lewis Hine sneak into factories, mines and sweatshops? (He posed as a fire inspector or insurance salesman)
- How did Lewis Hine measure the height of children without anyone knowing? (He knew the height of each button on his vest from the floor)
- What was Lewis Hine's child's name? (Corydon)
- What is a "coal breaker?" (Someone who picks out pieces of slate and stone from the coal chutes.)
- In which book did someone say, "There are 20 boys in that breaker and I bet you could shovel 50 pounds of coal dust out of their systems."?
- In which book did someone say, "I'd rather send my boys straight to hell than send them by way of the glass house."?
- What did migrant farm workers do? (They traveled around the country to plant and harvest crops)
- What was bad about migrant farm jobs? (Long hours, unsafe living conditions and no school available)
- What term did Lewis Hine coin to describe some of his work? ("Photo-Story")
- What job did Lewis Hine take in 1918 after 10 years working for the NCLC? (He worked for the Red Cross in Europe photographing refugees in the aftermath of WWI.)
- What did Lewis Hine do after he returned from Europe? (He photographed positive pictures of men and women working.)
- What big skyscraper did Lewis Hine photograph as it was being constructed? (The Empire State Building)
- What bad fortune came to Lewis Hine in his later years? (He couldn't sell his photos and died in poverty.)
- Does child labor still exist in America today? (Yes, but to a much lesser extent than in the early 1900s when Lewis Hine was taking his pictures.)