

**Lewis Hine Photography – Child Labor**  
**By Liz LaRosa**  
**[www.middleschoolscience.com](http://www.middleschoolscience.com)**

## **Purpose**

- To analyze primary sources (photographs) related to child labor
- To learn how Lewis Hine brought awareness to the issue of child labor
- To explore the factors that contributed to child labor

## **Resources**

- Library of Congress website  
<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/nclc/>
- Photo Analysis Worksheet  
<http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets/photo.html>

## **Google Slides**

- Students will select 1-2 photographs for their assigned category
- Students will analyze each photograph using the Photo Analysis Sheet
- Each group will create one presentation containing their slides and photographs
- Groups will share their presentations with the class

### **Subject: Coal Mining**

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/search/?q=lewis+hine+%2B+mine&st=gallery>

- **Student 1** – pictures of a solitary child (if 3 people in group, combine topic with Student 4)
- **Student 2** – pictures of groups of children
- **Student 3** – pictures of boys and men mining
- **Student 4** – pictures of buildings, machinery, tools, or animals at the mine

### **Subject: Factory Workers or Urban Setting**

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/search/?q=lewis%20hine%20%2B%20factory&st=gallery>

- **Student 1** – pictures of a solitary child (if 3 people in group, combine topic with Student 4)
- **Student 2** – pictures of groups of children
- **Student 3** – pictures of adults and children working side by side
- **Student 4** – pictures of buildings, industrial settings, & machinery

### **Subject: Farm Labor or Food Industry**

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/search/?q=lewis%20hine%20%2B%20farm&st=gallery>

- **Student 1** – pictures of a solitary child (if 3 people in group, combine topic with Student 4)
- **Student 2** – pictures of groups of children
- **Student 3** – pictures of adults and children working side by side
- **Student 4** – pictures of buildings, machinery, & farm animals

### **Subject: Family Life**

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/search/?q=family&co=nclc&st=gallery>

- **Student 1** – pictures of siblings working together
- **Student 2** – pictures of a child/siblings working with parent(s)
- **Student 3** – pictures of families at home
- **Student 4** – pictures of families working in a factory, farming, or using machinery

### **Extension**

Students will write a journal entry or personal letter (¾ to 1 page) based on one of the photographs they have chosen. Samples of work from the Class of 2017

*"I miss Poland and my old life there. I went to school and learned to read and write. I could even struggle through a few English words. After school, I would race down the dusty gravel road to my small yard. My father built a tree house out of scrap wood he brought back from the shop. We hung a tire swing from it. My dad would push me everyday, I miss him so much."*

*"It gets darker and darker every day, but we are holding up. Sometimes I wish that we never left Ireland. It was so much easier there. Ah, well thinking about everything back home will only make me sad. Today the boss gave me another mule to look after. Pa is real proud."*

*" 'Am I payin' you too much?! Because I can change that.'  
'No sir, we are working.'  
..'OK good, because I ain't be wastin' my time on hirin' someone new' "*

*"Day 5: Family. I am the youngest of nine children. We are all one year apart. In 1918 we sailed over from Italy. My older sister Milania and I had a sickness before we came to the USA. I forgot what it was called. "*

*"When I walk home from the mine, I see kids coming out of school. Laughing with their friends With no freedom, how will I ever do anything in my life?"*