

0. CHILDREN IN THE FIELDS - Story Preface
1. CHILD LABOR OVERVIEW
2. EFFORTS TO PROTECT CHILDREN
3. LOBBYING FOR CHILDREN
- 4. CHILDREN IN THE FIELDS**
5. IN THE CANNERIES
6. IN THE MINES
7. IN THE MILLS
8. REGULATED CHILD LABOR



About this photo—from October, 1913—[Lewis Hine](#) wrote: “Part of a group of itinerant cotton pickers leaving a farm at which they had finished picking a bale and a half a day. They live in these wagons. Note how many children - all pick except the baby in arms. The four year old picks fifteen pounds a day regularly. Seven year old boy picks fifty pounds a day. Farm near McKinney, Texas. Location: McKinney, Texas.” Image online via the National Child Labor Committee collection, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division. Click on it for a better view.

As he traveled around America, Lewis Hine photographed children performing all sorts of manual labor. Thousands of his pictures are now part of a collection at the U.S. Library of Congress.

- Five-year-old Dovey Kirkpatrick (with [her family](#) in Comanche, Oklahoma) picked cotton at the average rate of fifteen pounds a day in October, 1916. Her mother told Hines: "She jess works fer pleasure."
- Harold Walker, also five, [worked](#) in the same field while [Edith](#) (last name unknown) picked cotton near Denison, Texas.
- Berry [picking](#) on farms in Maryland (here in 1909) was a [family affair](#) for [many](#) immigrants. Their [living](#), [cooking](#) and [eating](#) quarters were [primitive](#), at [best](#).
- [Slavin Nocito](#), picking cranberries with other children in New Jersey, carried two pecks of cranberries to "the bushel man." He walked the "long distance," in 1910, without shoes.
- [Alex Reiber](#), seven years old in 1915, topped sugar beets near Sterling, Colorado. He observed: "I hooked me knee with the beet- knife, but I jest went on a-workin."
- On "rush days," children ([aged 8-10](#)) worked in the Sterling fields from 5:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Five weeks after school started, in the fall of 1915, only [one student](#) showed up for class in Ft. Morgan, Colorado. There had been room for nineteen more.
- Similarly, twelve (out of twenty-six) students missed class at [Twombley School](#) in Bush, Colorado.
- When she wasn't working in the Sonora, Kentucky fields, 11-year-old [Demetra Jones](#), helped to knit clothes.
- In Connecticut, 1917's tobacco crop stood taller than some of its [youthful pickers](#).

America's children did not just work in the fields. They also worked along the seashore and in canneries. The results of their labor were shipped around the country and to other parts of the world.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/CHILDREN-IN-THE-FIELDS-Child-Labor>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/CHILDREN-IN-THE-FIELDS-Child-Labor>

## Media Stream



### Family Picking Cotton

Image, described above, online courtesy Library of Congress.

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Family-Picking-Cotton->



### Five-Year Old Picking Cotton

Image, described above, online courtesy Library of Congress.

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Five-Year-Old-Picking-Cotton>



### Little Girl Picking Cotton in Denison, Texas

Image, described above, online courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Little-Girl-Picking-Cotton-in-Denison-Texas>



### Picking Berries in Maryland

Image, described above, online courtesy Library of Congress.

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Picking-Berries-in-Maryland>



### Immigrant Family - Field Workers

Image, described above, online courtesy Library of Congress.

PD

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Immigrant-Family-Field-Workers>



### Families Leaving for Field Work

Image, described above, online courtesy Library of Congress.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Families-Leaving-for-Field-Work>



### Living Quarters of Field Workers

Image, described above, online courtesy Library of Congress.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Living-Quarters-of-Field-Workers>



### Meal Preparation by Field Workers

Image, described above, online courtesy Library of Congress.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Meal-Preparation-by-Field-Workers>



### Eating-Table of Field Workers

Image, described above, online courtesy Library of Congress.

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### Young Children Used in Field Work

Image, described above, online courtesy Library of Congress.

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View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Young-Children-Used-in-Field-Work>



### Lad Alex Reiber Working in a Beet Field

Image, described above, online courtesy Library of Congress.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Lad-Alex-Reiber-Working-in-a-Beet-Field>



### Child Labor - Slavina Nocito Carrying Berries

Image as described from the Library of Congress.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Child-Labor-Slavina-Nocito-Carrying-Berries>



### Demetra Jones - Worked at Home and in the Fields

Photograph as described from the Library of Congress.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Demetra-Jones-Worked-at-Home-and-in-the-Fields>



### Field Workers Housing

Photograph as described from the Library of Congress.

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View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Field-Workers-Housing>



### Primitive Living Standards of Field Workers

Photograph as described from the Library of Congress.

PD

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Primitive-Living-Standards-of-Field-Workers>



### Single Student in School - Classmates Out Working

Image, described above, online courtesy Library of Congress.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Single-Student-in-School-Classmates-Out-Working>



### Twombly School

Image, described above, online courtesy Library of Congress.

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Twombly-School>



### Very Young Workers in the Tobacco Fields

Image, described above, online courtesy Library of Congress.

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View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Very-Young-Workers-in-the-Tobacco-Fields>



### Young Lad Picking Tobacco

Image, described above, online courtesy Library of Congress.

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Young-Lad-Picking-Tobacco>

