



0. IN THE CANNERIES - Story Preface

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Not only did American children work *in* the canneries, some children also worked on the boats which caught the food that canneries would preserve. Lewis Hine took this photograph during January of 1909. He describes it with these words: "A young oyster fisher [?] Others smaller employed in busy season. Apalachicola, Fla. Randsey Summerford says he starts out at 4 A.M. one day, is out all night in the little oyster boat and back next day some time. Gets a share of the proceeds. Said he was 16 years old and been at it 4 years. Lives in Georgia and is here 6 months a year. Location: Apalachicola, Florida." Image online via the National Child Labor Committee collection, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division. Click on it for a better view.

From sardine canneries (in Eastport, Maine where children did dangerous work) to shrimp and oyster canneries (in places like Biloxi, Mississippi and Bluffton, South Carolina where children and African-Americans worked side-by-side), child labor was a pervasive part of American life during the first decades of the 20th century.

The photos of Lewis Hine take us back in time to observe working American children:

- Five-year-old Preston and 6-year-old Elsie Shaw (note her missing left arm) worked (in 1911) as cartoners while other youngsters served as cutters or fish cleaners for Maine's Seacoast Canning Company.
- Mildred Kron (aged three in 1911) and her sister Gertrude (aged five) were only two of many children who shucked oysters or picked shrimp for Biloxi's canning companies. Most started work at 7:00 a.m. and weren't tall enough to do their jobs.
- Every member of the Peter Elvis family, except the baby, worked for the Barataria Canning Company in Biloxi, Mississippi. Pictured at their New Orleans home in 1911, Jo (the 7-year-old boy) worked Saturdays and Alma (a 3-year-old girl) was "learnin' the trade," according to her mother.
- Cora Croslen, and her 3-year-old daughter Alma, both worked at Barataria. They were originally from Baltimore, Maryland.
- The "shucking boss" supervised as women and children shucked oysters in Dunbar, Louisiana.
- Maude Daly (age 5) and her sister Grace (age 3) each picked about one pot of shrimp a day (in 1911) for the Peerless Oyster Company in Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi.

Today, men who work in America's coal mines do some of the hardest work in the country. During the first decades of the 20th century, before modern equipment made a hard job a bit easier, young boys toiled underground in those same Appalachian mines.

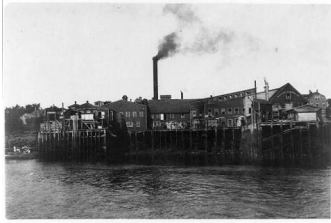
See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

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

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

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

Media Stream



Sardine Cannery in Eastport Maine

Image, described above, online courtesy Library of Congress.

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Sardine-Cannery-in-Eastport-Maine>

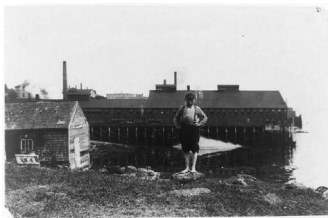


Seafood Plant Docks

Image, described above, online courtesy Library of Congress.

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Young Cannery Worker

Image, described above, online courtesy Library of Congress.

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Lad Working at the Oyster Cannery

Image, described above, online courtesy Library of Congress.

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Cannery Workers, Including Young Children

Image, described above, online courtesy Library of Congress.

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Young Preston Shaw - A Cartoning Worker

Image, described above, online courtesy Library of Congress.

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Elsie Shaw a Cannery Worker

Image, described above, online courtesy Library of Congress.

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Working as a Cutter

Image, described above, online courtesy Library of Congress.

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Working Children

Image, described above, online courtesy Library of Congress.

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Canning Workers at Home

Image, described above, online courtesy Library of Congress.

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Shrimp Pickers

Image, described above, online courtesy Library of Congress.

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Youngsters at Work

Image, described above, online courtesy Library of Congress.

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Child Workers - Maude and Grace Daly

Photograph as described from the Library of Congress.

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Children Shucking Oysters

Photograph as described from the Library of Congress.

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Children Working in a Biloxi Cannery

Photograph as described from the Library of Congress.

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Cora Croslen and Three-Year-Old Daughter Both Worked

Photograph as described from the Library of Congress.

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Mildred Kron - Working at Age Three

Photograph as described from the Library of Congress.

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Standing on Boxes at the Workstation

Photograph as described from the Library of Congress.

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Women and Children Shucked Oysters

Photograph as described from the Library of Congress.

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Working the Line

Photograph as described from the Library of Congress.

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Young Fish Cleaners

Photograph as described from the Library of Congress.

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Young Girl at Work

Photograph as described from the Library of Congress.

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