

Child Labor

Today's Child Laborers

Subject: History/Social Studies/Geography

Grades: 9-12

Skills:

- Research
- Writing
- Map Studies

Materials:

- Pencil
- Access to website:
https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/reports/child-labor/list-of-goods?combine=&field_exploitation_type_target_id_1=All&tid=All&field_exp_good_target_id=All&items_per_page=10&page=19

Summary:

While child labor was a profound issue in the United States before mandatory school attendance laws and labor laws were put in place, today it is less of a concern in this country. Perhaps surprising, it remains a concern in other countries. The US Department of Labor's Bureau of International Labor Affairs actively monitors proven and suspected child labor across the globe and is working to raise awareness to bring about change.

Using the knowledge gained about child labor in textile mills in the 1800s, it is easy to understand the dangers to children in terms of exploitation, injury, and stunted educational development when forced into child labor, even in 2020. While numerous examples of suspected child labor is recorded by the US Department of Labor, this excerpt was published in 2020:

"There are reports that children, mostly boys ages 4-17, are forced to quarry granite in Nigeria. Some children are abducted and trafficked from within Nigeria and from Benin to work in granite quarries and mines in the Federal Capital Territory, as well as the states of Ebonyi, Enugu, Ogun, Oyo, and Osun. Reports from the United Nations (UN) and media indicate that between 5,000 and 6,000 children from Benin alone were forced to work in the granite quarries; multiple government rescue operations identified between 50 and 200 children engaged in this work at a time. The children are forced to work up to 16 hours a day, even when they are sick. Many are forced to work under threat of physical

violence. Children are often forced to sleep outside and are denied food. Reports indicate that children frequently die while working, having been forced to work under extreme conditions."

This example, like other reports, suggests there is a need for global reform. The US Department of Labor reports that to make improvements, our country needs to work with international organizations to "expand school access to children vulnerable to labor exploitation," continue investigations, and encourage those countries to enact new laws to expand protections. Interestingly, just like the migrant French Canadians and Irish who came to Maine for mill work, today the US Department of Labor notes that globally, those vulnerable to the worst forms of child labor include "indigenous peoples, migrants, and refugees," particularly when there are barriers to education.

Discuss:

- Did you know forced child labor is actively occurring across the globe before you heard/read this summary?
- What parallels or differences do you see between the example from Nigeria and the work of child laborers in Maine's textile mills in the 1800s?
- What type of goods do you think child laborers produce today?
- What is the role of educational access to preventing child labor?

Instructions:

Use the website cited above to conduct research. Identify six different countries that are suspected or have been proven to have on-going child labor and record your results on the world map. Then, write a short synopsis of what the labor violation is.

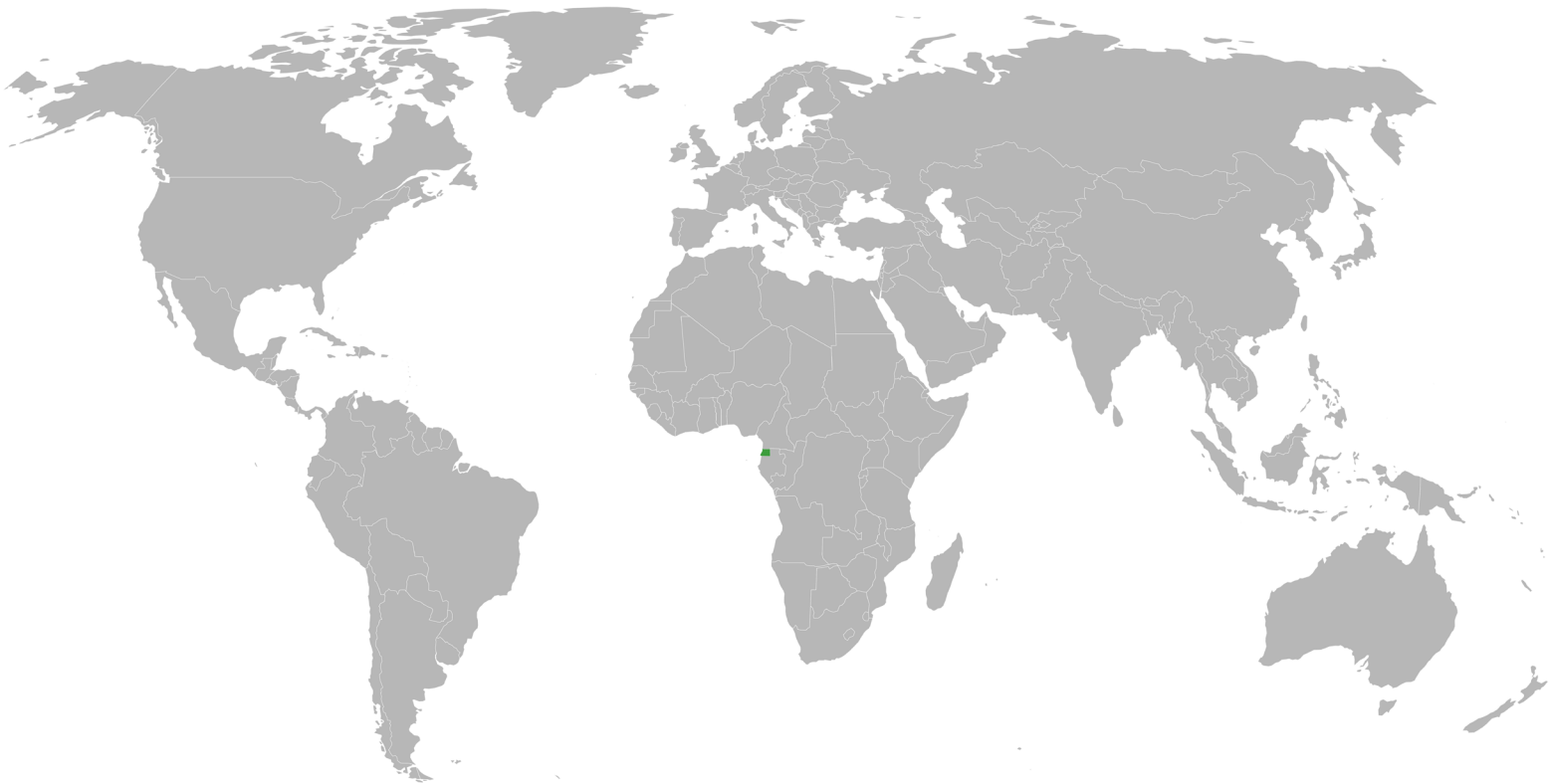
Continue to research and identify at least one product produced by countries that have proven or suspected child labor activity. Record your findings.

Go deeper with research, and for each of the six countries you identified, find your own resources to record what the educational landscape looks like for the average child. Do most children graduate from high school? If so, what percent?

Child Labor

Identify six different countries that are suspected or have been proven to have on-going child labor and record your results on the world map. Then, write a short synopsis of what the labor violation is.

Name: _____ Date: _____



#1

Country: _____

Short synopsis of labor violation:

Products produced with suspected child labor:

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Education standards:

#2

Country: _____

Short synopsis of labor violation:

Products produced with suspected child labor:

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Education standards:

#3

Country: _____

Short synopsis of labor violation:

Products produced with suspected child labor:

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Education standards:

#4

Country: _____

Short synopsis of labor violation:

Products produced with suspected child labor:

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Education standards:

#5

Country: _____

Short synopsis of labor violation:

Products produced with suspected child labor:

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Education standards:

#6

Country: _____

Short synopsis of labor violation:

Products produced with suspected child labor:

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Education standards:
