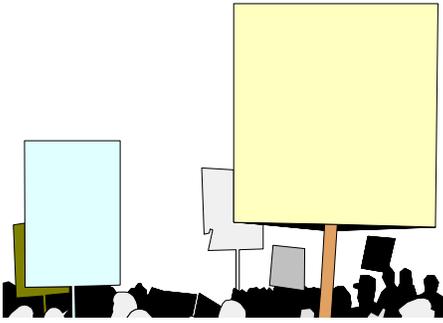


## Teaching Guide

### SEGMENT 6, WEBISODE 9

Please note: Each segment in this Webisode has its own Teaching Guide



#### Segment Overview

As America changed from an agrarian society to a more urban, industrialized nation in the late 1800s, workers struggled to adapt. The rise of corporations, the loss of employer-employee familiarity, and the emphasis on profit-making created a system in which workers—often women and children—toiled at hard physical labor for long hours, six days a week, for low pay. The rising tide of immigration and the availability of a cheap, plentiful labor pool further weakened workers' bargaining positions. Workers faced dangerous and unsanitary working conditions with little safety regulations or protection. They received no compensation for illness or injury, and faced dismissal if they complained or went on strike.

Exploited workers banded together to fight for better conditions and wages. To force employers to meet worker demands, unions organized strikes. Industrialists fought back, firing strikers, hiring police and soldiers to break strikes, and bringing in strikebreakers or scabs. In some cases, industrialists bribed government and law enforcement officials and encouraged violence against protesters.

When workers at the McCormick Harvester Machine Company went on strike for an eight-hour day in May, 1886, the company brought in strikebreakers and violence erupted. The following day, during a peaceful rally at Haymarket Square, someone threw a bomb, and the police opened fire. Although the bomb thrower's identity was never discovered, eight men were tried for the death of a police officer. Even though five of the men were not even present at the event, seven were sentenced to death. A later investigation resulted in a pardon and concluded that the accused were unjustly convicted.

#### Teacher Directions

1. Students, in small teams, discuss the following questions.
  - How did American industry change in the last half of the nineteenth century?
  - How did workers try to improve their situations?
  - How did many industrialists respond to the early union movement?
  - What are socialists?
  - Who was Samuel Gompers?
  - What was the Haymarket Square Massacre?
2. Make sure students understand the following points in discussing the questions.



#### Let's Discuss

Let's Discuss, Cont.

During the last half of the nineteenth century, American industry expanded dramatically. Many workers worked long hours in unsanitary or dangerous conditions for low pay. Large employers no longer knew their employees, and an emphasis on profit-making endangered workers. Workers banded together to form unions to bargain for better working conditions, shorter hours, and higher pay. Many industrialists opposed the unions and hired strikebreakers and armed detectives to break up strikes. Some early unions were run by socialists, who believed the government should own the means of production (businesses) and distribution of goods (railroads, utilities). Samuel Gompers, an early labor leader, founded the American Federation of Labor. When workers went on strike to shorten the work day at the McCormick Harvester Machine Company in 1884, they gathered for a peaceful rally at Chicago's Haymarket Square. Someone threw a bomb, the police opened fire, and several policemen and civilians died. Eight men were put on trial for conspiracy and murder and found guilty.

### Teacher Directions

1. Explain to students that during the last half of the nineteenth century, exploited American workers tried to improve their working conditions and wages by organizing unions. Conflict and opposition arose from employers, government, and the general public. The Haymarket Square Massacre exemplifies this conflict.
2. Students read about the Haymarket Square Massacre by reading Chapter 16, "Harvest at Haymarket" in Joy Hakim's *An Age of Extremes*, Book 8 in *A History of US* or by consulting the Internet and other sources.
3. Working in small learning teams, students discuss the following questions.
  - Why did people distrust unions?
  - What role did anti-immigrant sentiment and the fear of socialism and anarchy play in the Haymarket Massacre?
4. Make sure students understand that some people distrusted unions because of the socialists and anarchists in the workers movement, and they favored capitalism without regulation. Capitalists, employers, and the general public feared the radical ideas of socialism and anarchy, which they felt were un-American. These persons believed that immigrant workers, especially Germans, brought these dangerous ideas to America. Conflict and violence arose against workers in an effort to control them and discourage their rise to power through unions.
5. In their small learning teams, students debate the following questions.
  - Were the Haymarket Eight guilty?
  - On what evidence do you base your decision?



History Sleuth, Cont.



What do you  
Think?



Moving Toward  
Freedom

- Were the first amendment rights of the Haymarket Eight violated? Support your opinion.

6. Students use construction paper, markers, and other art supplies to create a historical marker commemorating the Haymarket Massacre. Make sure students understand what a historical marker is. Student markers should answer the five Ws and H (who, what, where, when, why, and how) and be visually appealing.

### Teacher Directions

1. Tell students that several years after the Haymarket Massacre, two monuments were erected in Chicago to commemorate the riot. One monument depicts Justice preparing to draw a sword while placing a laurel wreath on the brow of a fallen worker. At the base of the monument are the final words labor leader August Spies spoke before his execution: "The day will come when our silence will be more powerful than the voices you are throttling today."
2. Students discuss the following question in small learning teams.  
Do you agree with August Spies' prediction?

### Teacher Directions

#### Activity One

1. Tell students that when the Haymarket Eight were found guilty, thousands of Americans protested and sent letters and petitions for amnesty to the government. When the four men were hanged on November 11, 1887, over half a million people lined the route in the largest funeral procession in Chicago history. (Of the eight men found guilty, seven were originally sentenced to death; the sentences of two men were later commuted to life imprisonment, and one committed suicide while in custody.)
2. In small learning teams, students discuss the following question.
  - How did the Haymarket Massacre move America toward freedom?
3. Students create a poem, song, or cartoon that tells the story of the Haymarket Massacre.

#### Activity Two

1. Students read the Brief Bios of August Spies, Samuel Gompers, Andrew Carnegie, and Cyrus McCormick, Jr.

Moving Toward Freedom,  
Continued.



Connections

2. Students imagine that these four men meet in a locked room in 1886. What might each man say at such a meeting? Would this be an interesting meeting? How might such a meeting have moved America toward freedom?
3. Students write a short skit or newspaper article about such a meeting.

### Teacher Directions

Use the following activities with your students.

**Library/Technology** — The history of the labor movement in America is filled with fascinating stories of heroes, heroines and villains. Through books and web sites, students research the events and personalities of the movement and share that information.

**Art/Library** — Students create a mural that tells the story of workers in the United States. Be sure students base their mural on accurate information.

**Language Arts/Library** — Students read biographies of individuals who were or are important to the labor movement in the United States. Students create information cards with the individuals' photographs and contributions.

**Music** — Like the Civil War, the labor movement inspired a rich creation and use of music to express its ideas and ideals. Students research the songs of the labor movement, paying special attention to lyrics. Students can perform the songs in a program dedicated to the American worker.