

Guided Reading Activity

Labor and Wages

Lesson 1 *The Labor Movement*

Review Questions

Directions: Read each main idea and complete the statements below. Refer to your textbook as you write the answers.

A. Colonial Times to the 1930s

Main Idea: Unions are important because they played a major historical role in helping to create the legislation that affects our pay and working conditions today.

1. Early unions formed to negotiate terms for their members. The first attempt to organize labor in America was by a group of _____ in the year _____.
2. In the industrial post-Civil War period, two main types of unions developed: _____ unions and _____ unions.
3. Unions use methods such as _____, _____, and _____ to help workers negotiate for higher pay, job security, and better hours and working conditions. Employers sometimes respond with a _____ or by creating their own _____.

B. Labor Since the 1930s

Main Idea: During the Great Depression of the 1930s, Congress passed a series of laws that supported organized labor and form the basis of labor protection today.

1. The _____-_____ Act prevented federal courts from issuing rulings against unions engaged in peaceful strikes, picketing, or boycotts. The _____ _____ Act, or Wagner Act, of 1935 established the right of unions to have collective bargaining. The _____ _____ Act of 1938 set the first minimum wage, established time-and-a-half pay for overtime, and prohibited oppressive _____ labor.

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2. By the end of World War II, public opinion shifted against unions and led to the passage of the _____ - _____ Relations Act, or Taft-Hartley Act, of 1947. This act allows individual states to pass _____ -to- _____ laws.

C. Organized Labor Today

Main Idea: There are many different types of union arrangements in which today's labor force can participate.

1. A _____ shop is an arrangement where the employer agrees to hire only union workers. In a _____ shop, workers do not have to belong to the union to be hired, but must join soon afterward and remain a member as long as they keep their job.

2. In a _____ shop, workers do not have to belong to a union to be hired and cannot be made to join one to keep their jobs. An _____ shop does *not* require a worker to join a union as a condition to get or keep a job, but does require the worker to pay union dues to help pay for collective bargaining costs.

Summary and Reflection

Directions: Summarize the main ideas of this lesson by answering the question below.

How has history shaped today's labor laws?
