

## CHANGING ROLES OF CHILDREN

### Performance Standard (16DUS/18A).D

Write a paper comparing and contrasting the lives of children in the past with children's lives today accordingly:

- *Knowledge*: identify the changing role of children in our culture over time;
- *Reasoning*: analyze the photos/pictures to make comparisons between the roles of children in the present and the past;
- *Communication*: write a paper that compares the lives of children in our culture from the past to the present; express all ideas in a way that provides evidence of knowledge and reasoning processes.

### Procedures

1. *In order to understand Illinois, United States, and world social history (16D), and compare characteristics of culture as reflected in language, literature, the arts, traditions, and institutions (18A)*, students should experience sufficient learning opportunities to develop the following:
  - Locate examples/stories of the changing roles of people over time, and
  - Identify changes in cultural traits over time.
2. Have students review and discuss the assessment task and how the rubric will be used to evaluate their work.
3. Discuss what children's lives might have been like in the past (e.g., education vs. jobs and why students had to go to work, kinds of jobs they performed, work hours, hourly wage and where the money earned went).
4. Have students study historical photos and/or pictures depicting the lives of children in the past.
5. Have students analyze the photos by answering a series of questions; record the responses on chart paper:
  - What do you see in the photo?
  - How are the children dressed?
  - What are the children doing?
  - Can you tell where the children are?
  - How do the children compare to you? (same/different)
6. Have students write a summary comparing and contrasting the lives of the children in the photos with children's lives today. Students may complete a graphic organizer (e.g. T-chart, Venn Diagram, etc.) to show likenesses and differences as a pre-writing assignment, or use the answers to the series of questions previously recorded on chart paper.
7. Evaluate each student's work using the Social Science Rubric as follows and add the scores to determine the performance level:
  - *Knowledge*: the identification of the changing role of children in our culture over time was complete and accurate;
  - *Reasoning*: the analysis of the pictures and the written comparison were logical and accurate;
  - *Communication*: the written comparison was well-organized and well-detailed; the knowledge and reasoning were completely and effectively communicated.

### Examples of Student Work follow

### Time Requirements

- Two forty minute periods

### Resources

- Photos/pictures of children during the past century
- Web sites  
[www.historyplace.com/unitedstates/childlabor](http://www.historyplace.com/unitedstates/childlabor)  
<http://nuevaxschool.org/~debbie/library/cur/20c/turn/artifacts>
- List of questions to analyze the photos
- Chart paper
- Graphic organizer (optional)
- Paper and pen or pencil
- Social Science Rubric

## Children Back Then

Life back then was hard. Children back then had to work for 14 hours a day every day. They wore no shoes. They couldn't even spend the money. Life was poor back then!

First, back then jobs were hard. You had to get up at 2:00 at night, and go to work at 3:00 at night, and come back 5:00 at night! You could get many injuries working. You would only get paid \$2.50¢. It was hard back then.

Next, they had no shoes. We have many shoes. Back then there were no shoes at all so it was easy to get your feet wet. All Jordan's, Mike's, K-Swiss, and much more. It was easy to infect because of no shoes. It must have been hard back then.

Then, they could not even spend their money! They had to work for 14 hours a day and would have to give the they make to their parents! It's because their families were poor. Sometimes they played poker. If they lost they get yelled at. It was very hard back then.

Finally, back then it was hard for children. Children smoked and played poker. Kids were getting jobs at the age of 5. They getting cuts and all sorts of hurtings. It was hard back then.

## Life in the Early 1900's has Changed A lot

The life of children from the early 1900's until has really changed. Children back then didn't have shoes like Adidas. Children worked 14 hours a day. Children wore dirty, torn, cheap, old, ripped clothes. I'm glad I didn't live in the 1900's!

First, children back then didn't have shoes like Adidas. Kids back then had no shoes they walked barefooted. Kids back then worked without shoes.

Next, children worked 14 hours a day. Today children don't work (it is Child Labor because they work under 16) and myself don't really think kids can work. I

think they should have fun  
and go to school.

Then, children wore, dirty,  
torn, cheap, old, black and  
white clothing. We wear  
Tubus, Gap, nice clean clothes.  
Also, the people who make  
clothes might name it after  
someone.

Last, I'm glad I didn't  
live in the 1900's. I'm glad  
because they didn't have shoes.  
Back then they didn't have  
nice clothes. They had to  
have jobs. I'm so glad  
and happy that I didn't  
live in the 1900's.