

From Mills to Modern Answer Key

1. **1800s View:** Factory work was seen as valuable and a source of opportunity, despite long hours and dangerous conditions. It was often accepted as a necessary part of industrial progress.
2. **Today's View:** People would see the conditions as unsafe and unfair, especially child labor, and demand protections for workers' rights.
3. **Newspapers' Focus:** In the 1800s, society prioritized economic growth and industrial success, and many powerful voices (like factory owners) influenced the media to emphasize progress rather than problems.
4. **Modern Protections:** Today there are labor laws, minimum wage standards, limits on working hours, safety regulations, and bans on child labor that prevent such harsh conditions.
5. **Then vs. Now Significance:** Comparing perspectives shows how industrialization advanced society but also reveals the struggles that led to modern labor reforms. It highlights the importance of context in judging past practices.

Teacher Note: Encourage students to see both the "progress" side of industrialization and the "human cost," linking the comparison to the development of today's worker rights and protections.