

Name _____



Work Through Time

Directions: Read the passage about how working conditions have changed since the Industrial Revolution. Then answer the reflection questions that follow.

In the 1800s, during the Industrial Revolution, factories grew rapidly across cities. Many workers, including children, spent long hours in crowded buildings filled with loud machines and dirty air. There were few safety rules, and injuries were common. People worked six or seven days a week, often for very little pay. Despite these challenges, workers began to realize their strength in numbers and formed **labor unions** to demand better conditions.

Today, workplaces look very different. Safety laws protect workers, and most people have set work hours and fair wages. Technology has replaced many dangerous tasks, and workers can share their concerns without fear of losing their jobs. Still, the spirit of Labor Day reminds everyone that progress didn't happen overnight-it came from people standing together for fairness and respect.

Reflection Questions:

1. What were some of the dangers workers faced during the Industrial Revolution?
2. How have working conditions improved in modern times?
3. What role did labor unions play in creating change?
4. Why do we still celebrate Labor Day today?
5. Imagine you lived during the Industrial Revolution-what would you want to change first about your workplace?