

**TEACHER DEBRIEFING SHEET****DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Describe the political, social, and economic causes and effects of child labor around the world.
2. What are the pros and cons of child labor? Consider pros and cons for children, their families, their communities and countries, employers, and consumers.
3. What are some of the short-term and long-term effects of child labor?
4. How might the problem of child labor be resolved?
5. How can the international community collaborate to address child labor issues at the local, national, and international level?

**TASK:**

Create a television advertisement for an international aid organization (real or imagined) to educate viewers about the problem of child labor around the world. The primary (main) goal of your advertisement must be to solicit (ask for) viewers to contribute money or volunteer time towards the solution your group feels would best address the problem of child labor around the world.



**TASK EVALUATION CRITERIA:**

- Television advertisement for an international aid organization (real or imagined) educates about child labor in at least three places around the world.
- Television advertisement makes use of three or more of the following: sound effects, personal testimony (firsthand accounts), emotion, backdrops or other visuals, and/or costumes.
- Television advertisement includes multiple perspectives (points of view).
- Television advertisement includes at least five pieces of specific information (vocabulary specific to child labor, statistics, organizations, etc.)
- Television advertisement ends by addressing one way the problem of child labor around the world can be resolved, asking viewers to contribute money or volunteer time towards implementing (putting in place) that solution.

**EXTENSION QUESTIONS:**

1. How can consumers influence child labor policy?
2. How are consumers affected by child labor?
3. Is child labor a necessary step in every country's economic development? Why or why not?
4. If child labor were to be stopped around the world immediately, what would be some of the effects?
5. In what ways are child labor and poverty related?
6. What problems can be caused by making child labor illegal?
7. Explain why Nike has decided to stop doing business with Saga Sports in Pakistan. What are some of the pros and cons of this decision?
8. Would it be a good idea for an international aid agency to pay off the debts of bonded child laborers? Why or why not? If not, what might be a better solution (or solutions)?
9. In what ways are child labor and world health related?
10. In what ways are international trade and child labor related?

## ACTIVITY CARD

-  Read the CONTEXT-SETTING CARD. Then use the information on your RESOURCE CARDS to talk about the DISCUSSION QUESTIONS.
-  Examine the TASK and complete the project to meet all of the TASK EVALUATION CRITERIA.

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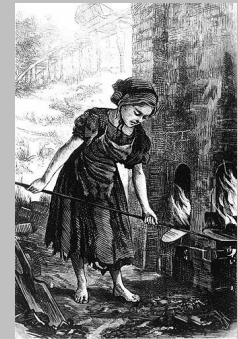
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## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND CARD

Everywhere around the world, children have always worked. Before the Industrial Revolution (1750-1900), children worked on family farms, in homes, as apprentices (someone who learns a trade by working with an expert skilled in that trade), and as slaves. However, the Industrial Revolution brought major changes to children's work.

### The Industrial Revolution and Child Labor

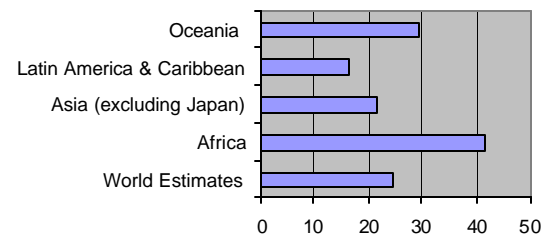
The process of industrialization began in Britain in the 1700s. Before industrialization, people worked primarily at home, either in agriculture (farming) or producing handmade goods. During the period known as the Industrial Revolution (1750-1900), production of goods shifted from people's homes to factories. As the number of factories increased, more and more people went to work in them and in the mines that supplied the factories' main source of power: coal. Children then worked outside of their homes in great numbers, spending long hours working, as their parents did, in factories and mines. Most child laborers worked during the Industrial Revolution because their families needed the money to survive.



1871 painting showing a young girl at work in a brick factory in England.

As the twentieth century progressed, more and more communities and countries around the world began to industrialize. As industrialization spread around the world, a divide began to emerge (appear) between those countries that had fully industrialized and those where industrialization was just beginning or was still in progress. Wealthy industrialized (also called developed) countries dominated the world economy, leaving less-developed (also called developing) countries behind. Largely because of widespread poverty, the majority of the world's child laborers today live and work in less-developed countries.

**Economic Activity Participation Rate of Children 5-14 Years of Age in Developing Countries by Region (%)**



### Key Child Labor Conventions of the International Labor Organization

Today's child labor practices were shaped by two very important international agreements – Convention 138 and Convention 182 – that were put forth by the United Nations' International Labor Organization (ILO) in the late twentieth century.

**Convention 138**, which was adopted in 1973, sets the minimum age for full-time work at the age of fifteen.

**Convention 182**, which was adopted in 1999, details the prohibition (forbiddance) and elimination of the worst forms of child labor, described as “work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.” The convention lists types of labor included in this description, such as: child trafficking, bonded labor, prostitution, pornography, children in the armed forces, and drug trafficking.

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## CONTEXT-SETTING CARD

All around the world, children work. The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that 211 million children between the ages of five and fourteen work around the globe. The majority of these children work in agriculture, but child laborers can be found working in a wide range of industries (see pie charts at right), many of which are hazardous (dangerous) to children's health and well-being (see map at right, below).

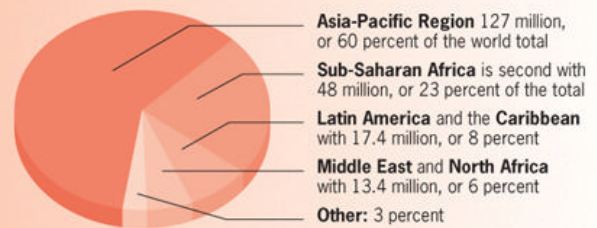
The reasons why child labor is so prevalent (common) are complex, and include:

- Poverty
- Class discrimination, particularly in India where the class system (known as the caste system) is well-established
- Racial and ethnic discrimination
- Gender discrimination
- Globalization

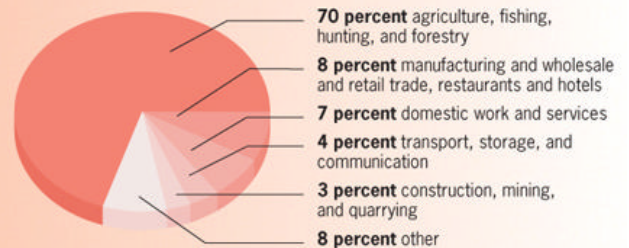


Boys working at a brick-making factory, New Delhi, India

### Where Are Most Working Children Ages 5 to 14?



### What Do Most Working Children Do?



Note: Data derived from surveys conducted in developing countries.



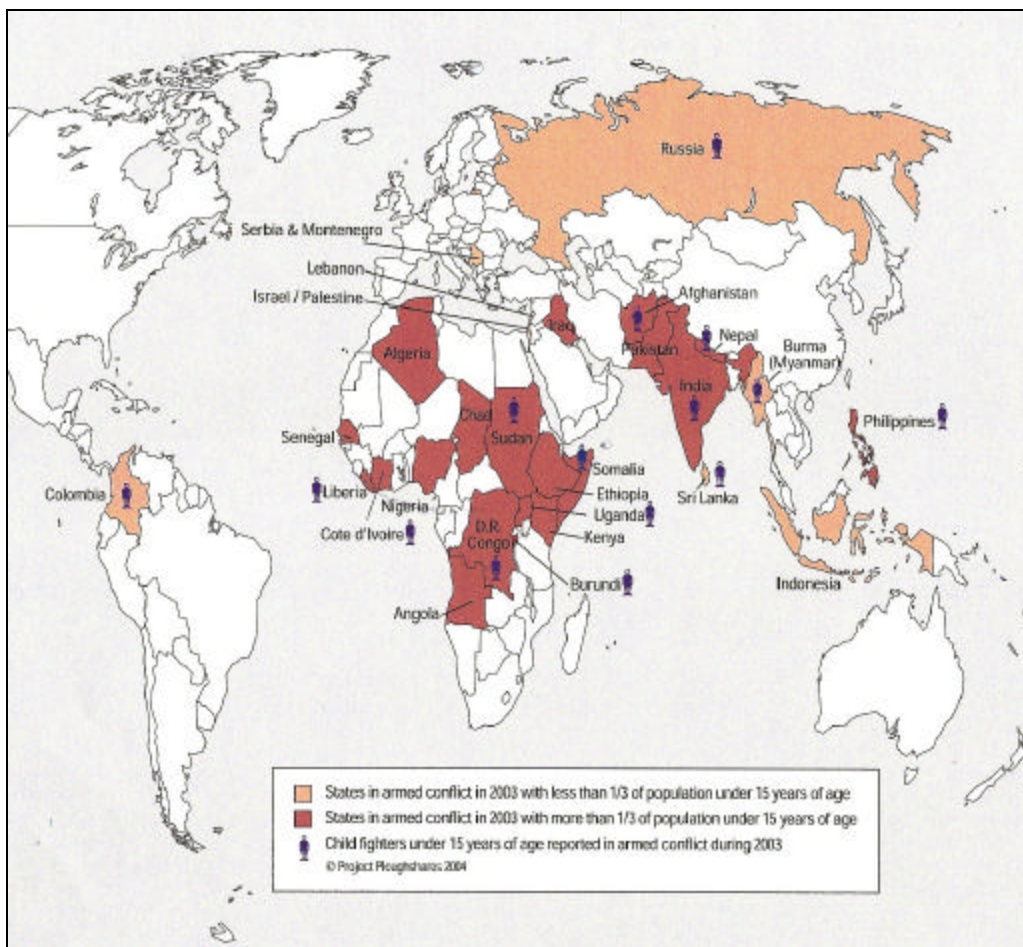
- Informal labor** (includes street vending, begging, camel jockeying, portering, and other service industries)
- Commercial labor** (includes factory work, farming, fishing, mining, quarrying, and all other forms of manufacturing)
- Subject to both conditions**
- No significant cases reported**

## RESOURCE CARD 1 (OF 4) Child Soldiers

Children participate as soldiers in many armed conflicts around the world. Some children are kidnapped and forced to become part of military units. In other cases, usually when ongoing conflict has destroyed a region's economy and social structure, children join the military voluntarily since they know they will be fed and protected. Child soldiers are often forced to use drugs – such as cocaine or marijuana – before fighting in order to de-sensitize them to the atrocities (violent acts) they will be asked to commit. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other organizations are working to demobilize child soldiers (removing them from the military) around the world. However, there are still countless children on the battlefield every day.

*Jeanne, of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, was forcibly recruited at the age of 11 in 1996:*

I was recruited in Goma on my way home from school. I came across some soldiers who were pretending to mend their broken-down vehicle, but in fact it was a ploy [trick]. They called me and some other children over, and when I went up to them, they grabbed me, threw me into their vehicle and took me off to a training center. I was trained there and then we began the march towards Kinshasa. Because we were taken just like that on our way home from school, our parents had no idea where we were. To this very day I don't know if my parents are alive. And even if they are, they don't know what's become of me.



Child soldiers,  
Sri Lanka, 2006



Child soldiers,  
Democratic Republic of  
the Congo, 2006



Child soldier,  
Democratic Republic of  
the Congo, 2003

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**RESOURCE CARD 2 (OF 4)**  
**Child Trafficking**

The trafficking of children – the transporting and buying and selling of children for labor purposes – is a widespread problem in many parts of the world. It is estimated that approximately 1.2 million children are trafficked each year, most often across national borders. Child trafficking is a lucrative (profitable) business, with annual (yearly) estimated profits of \$7 billion to \$10 billion.

Trafficked children perform many different kinds of work, including camel jockeying (racing camels), domestic work (working as servants), mining, and prostitution.

There are several different ways that children become part of the 1.2 million estimated to be trafficked each year. Many trafficked children are kidnapped and sold to employers. Others are tricked into leaving home with false promises of a good job and high wages. Still others are sold by their parents, who are usually promised a large sum of money or a monthly income in return. These children are forced to work for their new employers until either their usefulness runs out or until they are rescued and sent home.

A return to a normal life is difficult for most trafficked children who have been rescued. Often, once discovered, they are not treated with kindness and care, but are instead prosecuted for illegal immigration or prostitution. Many trafficked children do not know who their families are or where they came from, adding to the challenges of repatriation (returning them to their home country).

**Camel Jockeys**

In many of the wealthy Middle Eastern Persian Gulf states – such as the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Oman – camel racing is a popular sport. The lighter the jockey (rider who races the camel), the faster the camel can go, and a fast camel means winning races and profits for the camel's owner.

In order to keep a constant supply of lightweight jockeys, many owners of racing camels rely on child traffickers to find young boys to work for them. Most often, these boys come from South Asian countries, including Pakistan, Bangladesh, and India. Child camel jockeys are rarely provided with adequate shelter, and are often underfed in order to keep them light. Child camel jockeys are forced to work long days, sometimes as long as eighteen hours, and are often beaten if they protest their living and working conditions. Jockey work is physically exhausting and dangerous, often resulting in injury or death.

Many aid organizations (such as the Ansar Burney Welfare Trust International) work to rescue and repatriate (return to their home countries) camel jockeys and attempt to reunite them with their families, providing them in the meantime with food, shelter, and education. Stories like that of five-year-old Hasnain, from Pakistan, are not uncommon. Hasnain was three when he was taken to the Persian Gulf by people pretending to be his parents. According to Hasnain, “I barely remember my parents. I think my mother has long, black hair though.”



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### RESOURCE CARD 3 (OF 4) Bonded Labor

Bonded child laborers are children who work, essentially as slaves, in order to pay off a debt. Children become bonded laborers when their parents or guardians exchange them for a loan of money. The parents or guardians typically take out the loan in order to pay for health care, a wedding, a funeral, or food. The idea is that the child repays the loan through his or her work, but the reality is very different.

Bonded child laborers are very attractive to many employers. Because of their situation, bonded child laborers cannot leave, and they provide a constant source of labor and profitable income for their employers. Typically, the value of the bonded child laborer's work is not used to pay off the loan. Instead, it is used to pay off daily expenses (food, etc.) and/or the interest on the loan, thereby keeping the child in near perpetual (never-ending) servitude (slavery).

Bonded child labor is most common in South Asian countries, particularly in India and Pakistan. Bonded child laborers work in a variety of industries. Some of the industries in which bonded child labor is more common include: the beedi (hand-rolled cigarette) industry, the silk industry, and the rug industry.

#### Silk Industry, India



Children working in the Ramanagaram silk worm cocoon market, India, 2002

*Divya, a ten-year-old girl, is a bonded child laborer in the silk industry in India:*

I have been working for the last three years...I do not want to do this. I want to go to school but my parents have borrowed 5000 rupees (\$111) from the loom owner. I have to work.

Poverty and social class play a significant role in bonded child labor. In India, a caste (class) system has been in place for centuries, and clearly defines which groups of people are at the top and bottom of Indian society. The lowest class of people in India, known as the Untouchables (or Dalits), supplies the majority of bonded laborers. Because Dalits are looked down upon by the rest of Indian society, they have fewer economic opportunities, and their resulting poverty often means that taking out a loan – resulting in bonded labor – is the only way to make ends meet.

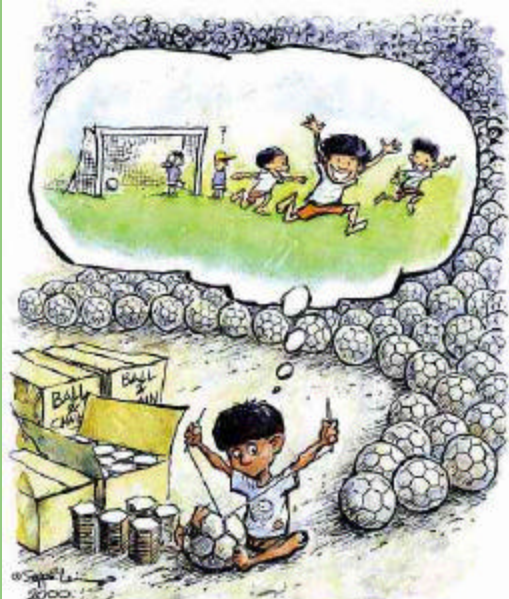
#### Success in Nepal: The Nepalese Youth Opportunity Foundation

In the impoverished (extremely poor) community of Dang, Nepal, many families have traditionally sold their daughters as bonded laborers. During the annual (yearly) Maghe Festival in January, fathers negotiate with labor contractors for their daughters' work for the coming year. Most girls work in private homes, where physical and sexual abuse is not uncommon.

Beginning in 2001, the Nepali-American NYOF (Nepalese Youth Opportunity Foundation) began to offer piglets to families in exchange for families promising to keep their daughters in school and at home. After a year, the piglet, now grown into a pig, can be sold for a price that is typically twice a girl's annual salary. The NYOF also helps to fund educational costs, including school supplies, construction of new classrooms, and the girls' schooling itself.

**RESOURCE CARD 4 (OF 4)**  
**Soccer & Chocolate: Industry Case Studies**

**The Soccer Ball Industry, Pakistan**



In 1996, an article in *Life* magazine exposed the widespread use of child labor in the soccer ball industry in the Sialkot District of Pakistan. Pakistani-made soccer balls accounted for 75% of soccer balls manufactured worldwide. Major-name manufacturers of soccer products, such as Nike and Reebok, were pressured by the media and consumers (customers) to address the problem of child labor being used in the manufacturing of their products. As a result, in 1997, the United Nations' Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Labor Organization (ILO), and the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) worked with the soccer ball industry to develop a monitoring plan designed to reduce and then eliminate child labor from the soccer ball industry in Sialkot. Monitors from the ILO were tasked with making unannounced visits to soccer ball stitching centers (often located in private homes) and were required to report cases of child labor to the companies that manufactured soccer balls for Nike, Reebok, and others.

Saga Sports, one of the companies that manufactured soccer balls, primarily for Nike, decided to go beyond the requirements of the monitoring plan and require that all of its employees work in company stitching centers, rather than in private homes. Saga Sports also added many worker benefits, including health care, day care, and life insurance. However, late in 2006, Nike decided to end its contract with Saga Sports after discovering several child laborers working for the company. There is concern in Sialkot about the impact of Nike's withdrawal, since 70% of Saga Sports' work was with Nike, and 70% of Sialkot's population works for Saga Sports.

**The Cocoa (Chocolate) Industry, West Africa**

A 2002 study conducted by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture on cocoa farms in Cameroon, the Ivory Coast, Ghana, and Nigeria found that:

- 284,000 children cleared fields with machetes
- 153,000 children worked applying pesticides
- 64% of children working on cocoa farms were under the age of 14
- 40% of children working on cocoa farms were girls
- Children regularly worked 12 or more hours a day
- In the Ivory Coast, 34% of children working on cocoa farms attended school while 64% of children not working on cocoa farms attended school



A boy raking cocoa beans, Ivory Coast, 2005.

In 2002, some cocoa products produced without child labor, marked with the "Fair Trade" label, began to be sold in the U.S.

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**INDIVIDUAL REPORT**

Describe three possible solutions that could reduce or eliminate child labor: one each to be implemented (put in place) at the local, national, and international level. Be sure to include in your descriptions what could be done and by whom, and how each solution would be paid for.

**Evaluation Criteria**

- Response includes descriptions of three possible solutions that could reduce or eliminate child labor.
- Each of the three solutions should be implemented at a different level: one local, one national, and one international.
- Response explains, for each of the three solutions, what could be done and by whom.
- Response explains, for each of the three solutions, how the solution will be paid for.