

Triangle Shirt Waist Factory Fire
March 25, 1911 4:40 PM NYC

As the progressive era continues to make reforms in many areas such as living conditions, (tenement slums), food consumption (the jungle), one area that was overlooked were the working conditions of immigrant children (mainly teenagers) in New York's garment district. The worst industrial accident in the history of the US at the time created an uproar For meaningful changes. Did it go far enough?

Questions to answer from video: typed or in pen (25-50 words)

1. Why was it difficult for female teenage sweatshop workers to form a union?
2. What were some of their concerns regarding the working conditions of the building?
3. What were the main reasons the fire spread so quickly? Although the floor had a number of exits why were so many of the girls unable to escape the flames?
4. Although New York City had a modern day Fire dept, why were they unable to extinguish the blaze?
5. Cite eyewitness accounts of onlookers who witnessed the deaths of many of these young girls.
6. What charges were brought against the 2 owners of the company and what was the outcome? agree or disagree.
7. In the aftermath of the tragedy, who emerges as one of the top progressive reformers? What was his background and why was he successful?
8. In all how many reforms were passed? Cite those you believe were the most prominent?
9. Why do you think there was such an overwhelming show of support during the funeral procession?
10. To you believe it took this terrible tragedy and the loss of 146 girls to initiate reasonable reforms for workers in sweatshops? explain