The Triangle Shirtwaist Fire

History's Mysteries—Solve the Crime of the Time



About the authors

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WELCOME TO THE TRIANGLE SHIRTWAIST FIRE!

In this hands-on investigative activity, students are given an authentic task: to think like criminalists and review mock forensic files of a historical event. Students gather, analyze, and interpret evidence, engaging in tasks such as examining physical objects (e.g., a model of a guillotine, bullets, a bloodspattered uniform), poring over photographs, analyzing documents, and reading maps and charts. A PowerPoint® presentation includes an introduction to the task, a coroner's report, and several types of sources from the "crime scene." Students then fill out a "forensic report" graphic organizer, hypothesize how the event took place, and conclude by reading a "Mystery Solved" handout that provides historical background on the "crime." Optional extension activities include having students create a "breaking news" TV report, write a front-page newspaper article, or compose a "news alert" text

message. Grades 6–12.

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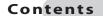


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Purpose and Overview

Activity Introduction

Welcome to *History's Mysteries: Solve the Crime of the Time*. Included are investigative case files that cover some of the main areas of world history standards-based curriculum. The central purpose of these files is to spark interest and excitement in students for further study of a given unit.

A History Mystery is rooted in having students act like a criminalist whose job is to gather, analyze, and interpret forensic evidence. Real-life criminalists are skilled in studying everyday items, examining bullets, and analyzing documents. Likewise, in a history class a teacher's job is to help students develop critical thinking skills also based in gathering, analyzing and interpreting data.

In this hands-on investigative activity, students are given an authentic task—to think like criminalists and review mock forensic files of a historical event. Each file contains primary and secondary source replica/realia that students analyze in order to hypothesize how a given event took place.

This activity works best as an introduction to a world history unit, but it may also be used as a way to review before a DBQ based assessment at the end of a unit. Students are motivated to solve each Mystery both with accuracy and speed as the first student/team to do so correctly wins a "Criminalist of the Year" nameplate for classroom display.

How does a History Mystery work?

Students are given the task of reviewing a historical event case file and filling out a Forensic Report. Once this initial step is completed, students then read a *Mystery Solved: Press Release* that reveals all the accurate details of the real life History Mystery.

Each History's Mysteries Case File review and Forensic Report are completed in a single (60 minute) class session. The follow up Mystery Solved: Press Release reading and follow up activities (Front Page News, Breaking News Report, or Text Message News Alert) can take another half to full one hour class period.

Each unit comes with reproducible student analysis sheets, teacher directions, student directions, CD-ROM that allows students to view the files on a computer (or the entire class with an LCD projector.



Teaching tipFor more scaffolding and challenge to

the activity, you can also add a step where students work on a *Front Page News Article, Breaking News Report,* or a *Text Message News Alert* in which students further synthesize what they believed took place in either an essay, short skit, or short summary form (for better language mastery, beginner or advanced writing skills, ELL and/or AP Students).



What conditions did industrial workers have to face in the early 20th century?









Incident Type

POLICE INCIDENT REPORT

| | Arrested Date Date Date Date Date Date Date Date | Asch Building 23-23 Washington Place, New York City, New York Northern corner of Washington Square East Northern corner of Washington Square Name (s): Max Blanck and Isaac Harris (Triangle Waist Company owners) (Triangle Waist Company owners) (Triangle Waist Company owners) (Triangle Waist Company owners) (Asserted to the Company owners) (Triangle Waist Company owners) |
|--|--|--|
| Robbery | | Charges: Manuel |
| □ Assault | | Male Stremale males - see attached list Mane (a): 141 females/5 males - see attached list |
| □ Kidnapping | | M Male Samples/5 males - see |
| Murder | victim(s) | Name (s): 141 Territor |
| Pailure to Comply with Current Law | | Age (B): 14-48 age floors 8-10 of the Asch Bustons. |
| Conspiracy (a secret agreement between two or more people to | | age to day afternoon floors died by flame. |
| Periors an unlawful act) | | Saturday afternoon floors 8-10 of the Asch Building Saturday afternoon floors 8-10 of the Asch Building caught on fire and 196 workers died by flame, fumes, when you are the building the same out of the building the same of the same of the building the same of th |
| Espionage (the systematic use of spics to get military or political secrets) | Details | Saturday and 116 works caught on fire and 116 works or sumping out of the building |
| O other: | | |

