Labor/Management Strategies

Objective: This lesson will help students understand the labor/management strategies that have influenced West Virginia’s economy.

GRADE LEVEL
Eighth Grade

TIME REQUIRED
Two to three class periods

GUIDING QUESTIONS
1. What are labor/management strategies?
2. How are these labor/management strategies employed?
3. Is the use of the strategies limited only to a particular industry?
4. How did/does the employment of these strategies affect the economy of West Virginia?

STRATEGIC VOCABULARY
- strike
- boycott
- injunctions
- lock-outs
- yellow-dog contracts

LESSON ACTIVITIES
1. Open the class session with a general discussion about labor and management. Students should be familiar with the use of vocabulary term “strikes,” but may not be familiar with the other terms used in this section.
2. Divide students into five groups (one for each labor/management strategy listed on the attached sheet). Each group is to research the assigned strategy, creating a short presentation. Content and instructions may vary from teacher to teacher and may use a variety of methods for presenting the information—PowerPoint, video, etc. for their assigned terms. Each presentation should incorporate visual aids/pictures to assist other students in understanding the significance of the term. Students are to present their findings to the class. While preparing this presentation, students are to focus on the predominate theme of the labor/management strategies: How did the use of these strategies affect West Virginia’s economy? The students may obtain information for each definition by viewing/reading the following articles:
General information:
• Labor History: http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1271
• Mine Wars: http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1799
• United Mine Workers of America: http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/835
• Railroad Strike of 1877: http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1965

Strikes:
• Paint Creek-Cabin Creek Strike: http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1798
• Hawks Nest Strike: http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/335
• Teachers’ Strike: http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/696
• Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Strike: http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1226
• Ravenswood Strike: http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/16

Injunctions:
• Red Jacket Case: http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/31
• Hitchman Coal and Coke v. Mitchell et. al: http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/426
• Mine Wars: http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1799

Yellow-dog contracts:
• Yellow-dog contract: http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1389
• Red Jacket Case: http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/31
• Hitchman Coal and Coke v. Mitchell et. al: http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/426
• Mine Wars: http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1799

Boycotts
• Ohio Valley Trades and Labor Assembly: http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1744
• Mine Wars: http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1799

Lockout
• Ravenswood Strike: http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/16

3. During the presentations, students will complete the attached graphic organizer as a method of taking notes. Also, it will aid in the completion of the comparison/contrast activity. Information for each of the terms will be gleaned from the presentations.

4. After the presentations, students should pair with another student from a different group to complete the double bubble organizer that is attached to compare/contrast these strategies. (A Venn diagram may be substituted.)

5. Ticket Out The Door: Students will briefly list/describe how the employment of these strategies affected the economic development of West Virginia.
SOCIAL STUDIES

SS.8.6: Evaluate West Virginia’s role in the global economy as it relates to natural resources and national/international business and trade.

SS.8.8: Analyze the impact of absentee ownership, renewable and nonrenewable resources, labor unionization, and the development of infrastructure on the economic growth of West Virginia (e.g., railroad, major highways, Internet and cellular service).

SS.8.13: Label the four major physical geographic regions, major rivers, landforms, natural/manmade borders, points of interest and bordering states on selected maps.

SS.8.25: Demonstrate an understanding of West Virginia’s development during the mid-twentieth century.
  • Summarize the significant aspects of the economic and industrial growth experienced by West Virginia during World War II (e.g., chemical industry, steel industry and coal industry).
  • Evaluate the sequence and analyze the impact of contemporary social, economic and technological developments on people and culture in West Virginia.
  • Identify the labor/management strategies that have affected West Virginia’s economy (e.g., strikes, boycotts, yellow-dog contracts, injunctions and lock-outs).
  • Explain the economic, social, and political impact of twentieth century events on West Virginia (e.g., school integration, Civil Rights Movement, Cold War and Vietnam).

Lesson plan created by Paula Meadows, Sherman Junior High School, Boone County, pmeadows@access.k12.wv.us.
# LABOR/MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

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