

City of Immigrants Part 2 & Part 3

Guiding Question: What were the conditions that immigrant workers faced in the large garment factories?

Document Analysis

Look closely at the image and read the caption. Then answer the questions below.



Lewis Hine, ca. 1910. Source: *The 1911 Triangle Factory Fire*, Kheel Center, Cornell University, <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/231.html>

Photographer's Note: Hand sewing is done by men and women facing a narrow bench, while men operate sewing machines at a long row of paired workstations. Some unethical subcontractors took advantage of newly arrived immigrants, forcing them to work long hours for the right to keep their jobs. A standard 56-hour week might stretch to 70 hours without overtime pay.

Jot down your observations about the following (be specific!):

City of Immigrants Part 2 & Part 3

Physical setting:

What sitting and standing people are doing:

Gender and age of people:

Why Lena might want to be there:

Why Lena might not want to be there:

Discussion/Writing Questions

1. What were some of the *pros* and *cons* of working in a workplace like this garment factory for an early-20th-century immigrant like Lena?
2. How did workplaces like this, and other gathering places for young people, promote *assimilation* for early-20th-century immigrants (the process of “becoming American”)?
3. Do you think becoming “American” today is a similar process, or have the steps to embracing American culture changed?