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Grade level: 7/8

Primary Source Citation:

Allow students, in groups or individually, to examine the photographs attached while answering the questions below in order. The questions are designed to guide students into a deeper analysis of the source and sharpen associated cognitive skills.

Level I: Description

1. What (individually) is occurring in each of these photographs?
2. Who are the people in these photographs?
3. Where do you think the photographs were taken? Location?

Level II: Interpretation

1. Describe the clothing of most of the people photographed. Why do you think their clothing is in that condition?
2. Describe the surrounding conditions and what you feel might be wrong with the conditions.
3. Why is no one smiling?

Level III: Analysis

1. Explain what the photographs can tell you about this period in history.
2. What information can you derive about these people’s living and working conditions from the photographs?
3. Describe how well you would have endured these working and living conditions if you had to live and work in this period of American history.
2.43 Children sorting coal