

Task:

Students explored the issues of industrialization and immigration through the lens of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory. Students learned how the factory exemplifies many of the industrial changes that occurred at the turn of the 20th century as well as the challenges new immigrants faced. Students then participated in a mock trial to better understand the American justice system by reviewing the actual evidence and witness statements from the trial in NY against the factory owners. Each class reenacted the trial with students taking on the role of a witness or attorney. Following the trial students wrote reflection on their performance and a persuasive essay about the fire.

Long-Term Learning Targets:

- I can analyze how industrialization and immigration altered American society.
- I can explain the cause of labor injustice and the resolutions sought by American workers.

Why the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory?

The Triangle Factory employed immigrant women during America's industrial growth. The owners ignored safe working conditions, employed women under the age of 16, and exemplified the industrial mindset of the time period. The tragic fire ignites legislative change in NY that eventually spreads throughout the country as part of the progressive movement.