

# **Labor Strife Between the World Wars 1919-1937 Ron Miller**

## **I. Labor Strife**

### **Summary**

The period between the world wars was a time of labor strife. Unions struggled for recognition and improve the lives of their members. The period was a time evolution for labor. At the start of the era, organized labor was weak, but by WWII, organized labor had become very powerful.

### **Objectives**

Students will:

- 1.) Describe the issues that led labor to strike
- 2.) Analyze the struggle of organized labor to achieve recognition, better wages, and better working conditions for its members

### **Grade Level**

This lesson is meant for middle school or high school.

### **Materials**

Directions and guiding questions worksheet for each group

### **Lesson Time**

Two class periods - 45 minutes each

## **II. Lesson Procedures**

### **Procedures**

- 1.) View introductory power point – on page 4
- 2.) Break the students into five groups
- 3.) Go to computer lab, each group assigned a specific labor strike to research:  
Seattle General Strike, 1919  
Boston Police Strike, 1919  
Textile Mill Strikes, 1934  
UAW Strike Flint Michigan, 1936  
SWOC Republic Steel Strike, 1937

### **III. Activities**

- 1.) Computer research in computer lab
- 2.) Complete guiding questions
- 3.) Write an article to be included a labor newspaper

## **IV. Assessment**

- 1.) Points for research
- 2.) Points for completed questions
- 3.) Points for newspaper article

## V. Resources

Seattle General Strike, 1919

<http://faculty.washington.edu/gregoryj/strike>  
<http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/centennial/march/labor.html>  
[www.historylink.org/essays/output.cfm?file\\_id=861](http://www.historylink.org/essays/output.cfm?file_id=861)

Boston Police Strike, 1919

[www.u-s-history.com/pages/h1348.html](http://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h1348.html)  
[www.iboston.org/mcp.php?pid=policeStrike](http://www.iboston.org/mcp.php?pid=policeStrike)  
[www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston\\_Police\\_Department](http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston_Police_Department)

Textile Mill strikes across eastern US, 1934

<http://msit.gsu.edu/dhr/pullen/selections.asp?id=34strike>  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Textile\\_workers\\_strike\\_\(1934\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Textile_workers_strike_(1934))  
<http://www.answers.com/topic/textile-workers-strike>

UAW Strike Flint Michigan, 1936

[www.historicalvoices.org/flint/organization.php](http://www.historicalvoices.org/flint/organization.php)  
[www.uaw.org/solidarity/03/0103/feature07.html](http://www.uaw.org/solidarity/03/0103/feature07.html)  
[www.answers.com/topic/flint-sit-down-strike](http://www.answers.com/topic/flint-sit-down-strike)

SWOC Republic Steel Strike, 1937

[www.kentlaw.edu/ilhs/republic.htm](http://www.kentlaw.edu/ilhs/republic.htm)  
[www.ohiohistorycentral.org/entry.php?rec=513](http://www.ohiohistorycentral.org/entry.php?rec=513)  
[www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/654.ht](http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/654.ht)

Organized Labor Worksheet      Group Members \_\_\_\_\_

Each group will be assigned to research a major strike that occurred in the period between the world wars. Use the questions below as a guide for the research. After completing the research and the questions, the group will write an article for our class newspaper, *The Labor Times*. The article should be at least five hundred words and contain between three to five pictures. The pictures can be downloaded from the internet.

List the strike assigned to the group.

Where and when did the strike take place?

What were the issues that the strike was about?

Name the industry, firm, and union that were involved with the strike.

Discuss, in detail, the events that happened during the strike.

What was the outcome of the strike? Did the workers win or lose the strike? Were the issues resolved?

What was the significance of the strike?

Were there any long term results of the strike? If so, what were they?



Labor Strife Power  
Point.pptm