

Chapter 4 Families and households

Topic 2 Childhood

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Activity: Webquest

Child labour laws around the world

Learning objectives

At the end of this activity you should be able to:

- Identify current policies on child labour in the UK.
- Identify key aspects of the International Labour Organization's minimum working age protocol.
- Analyse the impact of child labour policies on childhood in the UK and in other societies.

Your task is to compare and contrast the experience of children in different countries. To do this you will research the labour laws and employment conditions for children in different countries.

Split into groups of four. Each group will carry out research into child labour laws.

A. Using the websites below, answer the following questions:

1. Outline the global patterns of child labour.
2. According to the International Labour Organisation's protocol what is the minimum working age?
3. Outline the minimum ages for working in the UK and any restrictions that apply to children working.
4. In the examples of child labour what reasons are given for children being employed?
5. What do the examples show about the implementation of child labour laws?

B. Write a brief summary of your findings.

C. What does this activity tell us about the nature of childhood in different countries?

D. What evidence does this give you to show childhood is socially constructed?

<http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/child-labour/lang--en/index.htm#a3> – facts and figures on child labour

<https://www.gov.uk/child-employment/minimum-ages-children-can-work> - minimum working ages in the UK

<http://www.loc.gov/law/help/child-rights/uk.php> = further information on child labour laws in the UK

http://www.unicef.org.uk/Documents/Publications/ecechild2_a4.pdf - unicef booklet 'Child labour today'

Examples of child labour in other countries

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/poverty-matters/2014/jul/25/bolivia-child-labour-law-exploitation-slavery>

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/poverty-matters/2012/dec/10/global-outrage-modern-day-slavery>

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2014/jun/24/bolivia-cerro-rico-mine-mountain-collapse-miners>

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/s_w_asia/78953.stm