Leap Back in Time

During Jane Addams’s lifetime, many factories were being built, and people crowded into the cities from farmlands and from Europe. They were seeking work in the growing urban centers, struggling to improve their lives. They learned new occupations because of new inventions and technology—jobs like telegraph operator, photographer, and spinning machine and textile mill worker. Most of the factory jobs paid very little, and children were often sent to work. Jane Addams saw how these children suffered and helped to get laws passed that prevented children under the age of 14 from working in the factories. Can you imagine you or your friends working in a factory for 12–14 hours a day?