

The Lawrence textile strike

1912 | Grade 2 · Read & notice

Words to know

labor — work done by people

organize — arrange people or things to carry out a plan

cooperate — work together

Look closely



Modern topic illustration created for Massachusetts History Explorers. It is not a historical artifact.

Read the story

Workers in Lawrence protested lower pay and difficult conditions. Many came from immigrant families and spoke different languages. They organized together. The strike became known as Bread and Roses.

Think, talk, and show evidence

1. What happened in this reading? Tell one fact.
2. Who or what is this reading mostly about?
3. Choose a word from the word bank. Explain it in your own words.
4. Look at the picture and its caption. What does it help you notice? Is it from the time of the event?

Follow-up reading: Fenway Park opens

1912

Fenway Park opened in Boston in 1912. The Red Sox played there and won the World Series that year. Generations of fans have connected memories with the ballpark.

How are the two readings alike or different? Tell a partner one connection. Which event came first?

Teacher guide & source trail

Original classroom adaptation. Suggested reading levels are instructional choices, not standardized readability certifications. Use professional judgment and learner feedback.

ELA practice: RI.2.1: ask and answer questions; RI.2.2: identify a main topic; RI.2.7: use images and words; W.2.2 and SL.2.1: explain and discuss.

These tasks support selected skills in the [Massachusetts 2017 ELA framework](#); they do not establish mastery of an entire standard.

Answer guidance

Factual anchor: Workers in Lawrence protested lower pay and difficult conditions. Many came from immigrant families and spoke different languages. They organized together. The strike became known as Bread and Roses. A shortened workweek was followed by reduced pay, helping trigger the strike. Workers' cooperation crossed language divisions. Examine wages, hours, safety, and dignity rather than treating labor history as only a slogan.

Accept accurate main ideas and explanations supported by the text. Vocabulary meanings are in the opening word bank. For picture questions, use the caption and credit below; distinguish what is visible from what is inferred. For comparison, accept a specific connection supported by both readings. Do not require personal accounts of trauma.

Continue the inquiry

[Research source for this event ↗](#)

[Research source for follow-up ↗](#)

[Event page, accessible HTML reading, and vocabulary game ↗](#)

Image: Original site illustration.

[Image source and rights record ↗](#)

The PDF contains selectable English text and embedded fonts. For adjustable text and browser reading tools, use the event's [HTML page](#). External sources may need adult guidance.