

Topic: Thompsonville Carpet Weavers Strike, 1834

Activity 1

- B. [Read the 12 paragraph secondary source, "The Thompsonville Carpet Weavers Case,"](#) written by historians at the Connecticut State Library.

From the first paragraph we find out that "the carpet weavers. . .significantly contributed to the early labor movement." Your job in this exercise is to figure out what their contributions were. Come back to this space to answer that.

1. When the author uses the term "labor movement," they mean that the workers got together to stand up for their rights. This was unusual in the 1830s when this story occurs. Before you read anymore, for what issues do you think workers would band together? Use paragraph 1 and your background knowledge.

2. In the 1820s and 1830s, what did weavers need to weave carpets? Use paragraph 2.

3. What do you think the author means when they say that the "weavers had both individual and collective bargaining power"? Use paragraph 3.

Individual:

Collective (Together):

4. Give an example of what workers might bargain over. Use paragraph 4 and background knowledge.

5. What specifically did the weavers ask for? Use paragraph 4.

6. Why did the company's board of trustees say the weavers did not deserve a raise in pay? Use paragraph 5.

7. How did the weavers respond to the board of trustees saying no? Use paragraph 6.

8. Why did the weavers feel like they had the power to do this? Use inference and paragraph 5.

9. What did the weavers do to keep the agent from hiring replacement workers? Use paragraph 7.

10. With what did the company charge the weavers? Use paragraph 7.

11. The case went to a five day trial. What were the three issues brought up in the trial? Use paragraph 8.

12. Paragraph 9 describes two types of agreements the workers might have made - which do you think they made?

Circle the agreement you think the workers made:

- agreed to combine to interrupt and destroy the plaintiff's business
- agreed that they would not labor below certain wages

13. In whose favor did the jury decide? Use paragraph 10.

14. Why did the era of bargaining power of carpet weavers end in the late 1840s? Use paragraph 11.

15. What is this story about in relationship to the Market Revolution?

16. Why was their case significant? Use paragraph 10.