

The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire: The Fire That Ignited A Change in Worker Rights

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Senior Division

Group Website

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## Process Paper

A turning point in history can be described as an event that sparked a lasting and significant change. The specific turning point that caught our attention was the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire. We were first drawn to this tragedy while reading M.J. Augh's novel *Ashes of Roses* in middle school. A year later, we came close to encountering a fire of our own. While testing the functionality of a fog machine for a school dance, things grew out of control, causing students to evacuate the building and firefighters to ensure our safety. We asked ourselves: What would have happened if there were no fire alarms or safety procedures? We remembered the factory fire in the novel. Many lives were lost because of the inability of the owners to enforce effective fire regulations or procedures for the protection of workers. Eager to satisfy our curiosity and expand our knowledge, we explored how these safety measures came to be. The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire served as the turning point that shaped and constructed the basis of fire safety operations and regulations in workplaces.

For our project, we used primary and secondary sources to research different aspects of our topic including the historical context, fire, and impacts that mark the tragedy as a turning point. Secondary sources, including museum resources, novels, and videos, helped us contextualize the event and we explored many primary sources through their works cited sections. We acquired images through Cornell University's Kheel Center archive and victims' experiences through survivor interviews. We wanted to showcase as many different perspectives as possible, so we analyzed the trial transcript and found various accounts of what happened the day of the fire.

The creation of our project developed as we learned more about the factory fire. We chose a website specifically based on our experience and growth with the website builder. We wanted to create a newspaper theme with a touch of pink to honor the women who made up a majority of the worker population. We included a combination of text, quotations, images, and video to showcase this turning point in different media. After we received the judges' feedback, we made revisions, intentionally selected images, and strengthened our thesis. While working closely with professors and advisors, we successfully improved our website aesthetically and historically.

The Triangle Fire ignited advocacy for improving worker's rights and safety conditions. On March 25, 1911, the suffocating flames of this unfortunate monumental event caused the death of 146 workers, leading to an uprising in the fight for worker rights. It created the

tension needed to put new safety measures in place for the workers through a series of bills introduced by the Factory Investigating Committee. Additionally, the enforcement of labor laws improved as well. Ultimately, the fire prompted new regulations that are used to keep people safe in the event of a fire. Even today, people are reminded of the effects of these stolen lives through legislation that ensures proper fire, school, and workplace safety.

## Annotated Bibliography

### Primary Sources

"A Catholic family mourns the death of two Triangle fire victims. Many families lost more than one member." Photograph. 1911. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/178.html#screen>. Retrieved November 18, 2023.

We included this image to show how the families of these two victims mourned the deaths of their loved ones. This showed the ways in which the fire impacted the victims' families.

"A man wearing clothing made of money leans against the factory door which is locked with a dollar sign key, while women die in smoke and flames on the other side of the door," 1911. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed at <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/248.html#screen>. Retrieved December 13, 2023.

This editorial cartoon by an unknown artist is used in the turning point section under the public push back to support how the public felt about the fire. The public was furious and believed the owner's greed caused the locked door resulting in the deaths of the 146 workers.

Adamson, Robert. "500,000,000 Worth of Smoke a Year," *New York Tribune*, March 22, 1914, p. 47. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Library of Congress. Accessed <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83030214/1914-03-22/ed-1/seq-47/>. Retrieved April 28, 2024.

We used this source to gain more perspective on the fire and how people reacted to the tragedy. This source helped us understand the effects of the Triangle Fire and how companies responded and how they enforced the new laws and regulations in New York.

"After the Triangle factory fire was extinguished, broken bodies, hoses, buckets, and debris around the building testify to the extent of the struggle and the scale of the tragedy." Photograph. March 25, 1911. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/154.html#screen>. Retrieved November 18, 2023.

This image helped picture the direct aftermath of the fire by depicting bodies covered in debris. This image gives us a deeper understanding of how dangerous the fire was and the horrific effects.

"After Three Years' Battle They Get \$75 Each." *The Day Book*, March 12, 1914. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Library of Congress. Accessed <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045487/1914-03-12/ed-1/seq-7/>. Retrieved May 5, 2024.

We used this source to show that the owners didn't have to pay the 75 dollars to the victims, which raises the question of whether their punishment is worth the lives lost in the factory fire. This source helped us realize it wasn't the owners who paid the workers, but it was in fact an employer's liability company.

Anderson Press Association. "Pictures Showing Scenes at Waist Factory Fire Horror in the Heart of New York City." *The Logan Republican*, April 20, 1911, pg. 3. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Library of Congress. Accessed <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85058246/1911-04-20/ed-1/seq-3/>. Retrieved May 1, 2024.

The source talks about the fire and it includes some photos. We used it to help us see how the media impacted the call for a change in labor laws and working conditions.

"Atlanta Georgian (Atlanta, Ga.), April 5, 1914, (Four Stars Atlanta)." *The Library of Congress*, 5 Apr. Accessed [1914, www.loc.gov/item/sn89053729/1914-04-05/ed-4/](https://www.loc.gov/item/sn89053729/1914-04-05/ed-4/). Retrieved March 3, 2024.

This newspaper excerpt describes Robert Adamson's, the fire commissioner, thoughts on what the causes of the Triangle Shirtwaist fire were. We used this to show how New York identified the wrongs in the fire and how to fix things, so a tragedy like the fire that occurred on March 25, 1911 never happens again.

Arywitz, Sigmund. "Survivor Oral Histories: Dora Maisler," April 12, 1957, *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/primary/survivorInterviews/DoraMaisler.html>. Retrieved November 3, 2023.

This is an interview with Dora Maisler, a survivor of the fire, who describes her experience working at the factory, the fire, and how her life had changed because of it. We used this interview to fully understand the personal effects of the fire.

Arywitz, Sigmund. "Survivor Oral Histories: Max Hochfield," January 20, 1957, *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/primary/survivorInterviews/MaxHochfieldAudio.html>. Retrieved November 2, 2023.

This interview with survivor Max Hochfeld was used as another perspective of what occurred during this unfortunate day. This interview with this survivor provides insight on how families had to identify their fallen family members.

"At the 26th Street pier morgue, family members and friends had the nightmarish duty of walking past numbered coffins and examining each of the victims' remains in an attempt to identify their loved ones." Photograph. 1911. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/175.html#screen>. Retrieved November 18, 2023.

This photograph shows how victims were laid out in coffins, waiting to be identified. We used this photo to show that the fire made it difficult for families to find their loved ones and give them peace which helps the viewer empathize with the grieving families.

"At the corner of Greene Street and Washington Place" Photograph, March 25, 1911. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/150.html#screen>. Retrieved November 18, 2023.

This photograph depicts onlookers looking at firefighters struggling to save workers and control the blaze. This photograph helps to depict the gravity of the impact of the fire through public reaction.

Baker, Elizabeth Faulkner. *Protective Labor Legislation: With Special Reference to Women in the State of New York*. Columbia University, 1925.

This book describes the specific rules and regulations enforced due to the Protective Labor Legislation. This helped clarify the effects the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire had on New York. The fire was a true turning point in the changes in labor legislation.

Bain, George Grantham. "Because the city morgue was too small to hold the large number of fire victims, the covered end of the 26th Street pier was converted into a temporary morgue. Thousands gathered there even before ambulances arrived. Through the night and into the next day they waited, eventually identifying the dead from a familiar ring, a mended stocking, a scrap of clothing." Photograph. March 26, 1911. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/174.html#screen>. Retrieved November 18, 2023.

We used this image to highlight the amount of deaths that occurred because of the fire. This evokes strong negative emotions due to the fact that many people came to use even the smallest of accessories or designs to identify the victims.

"Bodies from Washing Place Fire," March 1911. Photograph. *Library of Congress: Photo, Print, Drawing*. Accessed <https://www.loc.gov/item/98502780/>. Retrieved December 2, 2023.

This photograph shows the bodies from the fire waiting to be identified. Their bodies were so burned that the family had to use shoes, hairpins, and rings to identify their loved ones.

Berinsky, Burton. "Esther Peterson, Assistant Secretary of Labor and Director of the Women's Bureau under President Kennedy, speaks at the 50th anniversary commemoration of the Triangle fire." Photograph. March 25, 1961. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*.

Accessed <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/111.html#screen>. Retrieved November 18, 2023.

We used this image of Esther Peterson speaking at the 50th anniversary commemoration of the fire to emphasize the idea that people throughout history were affected by the fire. As a result, workers' rights continue to improve and proper fire precautions have been set in place for schools all around the United States.

Brown Brothers. "A police officer and others with the broken bodies of Triangle fire victims at their feet," Photograph, March 25, 1911. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/151.html#screen>. Retrieved January 23, 2024.

This photograph was used as a way to depict the horrors that occurred on March 25, 1911. The burning bodies falling from the 9th floor was a view that the public saw thus, creating a feeling in the public that this tragedy must be brought to justice.

Brown Brothers. "An officer stands at the Asch Building's 9th floor window after the Triangle fire. Sewing machines, drive shafts, and other wreckage of the Triangle factory fire are piled in the center of the blaze-scoured room." Photograph. 1911. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/158.html#screen>. Retrieved November 18, 2023.

This photograph delineated the damages the fire had on the Asch Buildings. The building is now transformed into a memorial, commemorating the fire victims.

Brown Brothers. "Damaged fire escape at the Triangle Shirtwaist Company building after the fire," March 1911, Photograph. *Library of Congress: Photo, Print, Drawing*. Accessed <https://www.loc.gov/item/2003652928/>. Retrieved December 15, 2023.

This image shows the damaged fire escape after the fire and the lack of safety in the building. The fire escape collapsed causing many fleeing workers to plummet to their death.



Brown Brothers. "Firefighters from Ladder Company 20 arrived at the Triangle Waist Company minutes after the alarm was sounded and sprayed water at the burning Asch Building," Photograph, March 25, 1911. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/145.html#screen>. Retrieved November 18, 2023.

Firefighter arrived at the fire, hoping that the dampening mist, too weak to put out the fire by the time it reached the top floors, would cool the panicked workers who had been forced to window ledges by extreme heat, smoke, flames, and blocked exits.

Brown Brothers. "Fire victims being identified by relatives, Triangle fire," March 1911, Library of Congress, Photograph. Accessed [www.loc.gov/item/2003652923/](http://www.loc.gov/item/2003652923/). Retrieved December 16, 2023.

We used it to show how the identification process happened. We can see what the families had to do in order to find their family members and even at points not being able to find their loved ones.

Brown Brothers. "For endless hours police officers held lanterns to light the bodies while crowds filed past victims laid out in numbered rough-wood coffins. As the dead were identified, the coffin was closed and moved aside for the family to claim." Photograph. 1911. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/176.html#screen>. Retrieved December 16, 2023.

This image highlights the amount of time the police had to light up the bodies of the fallen workers. They did this, so families were able to find their loved ones.

Brown Brothers. "Glass sidewalk vault lights were broken by the fall of Triangle fire victims who jumped to their deaths in order to escape the inferno." Photograph. 1911. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/155.html#screen>. Retrieved November 18, 2023.

This image shows a shattered glass sidewalk from the falling bodies. The impact the bodies had on the pavement led to a quick death. It highlights the height of which many of the girls fell off of.

Brown Brothers. "Some of the Asch Building's collapsed fire escape ladders and balconies blocked by window shutters." Photograph. 1911. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/166.html#screen>. Retrieved December 16, 2023.

The image of a broken fire escape highlights the lack of fire safety during this time. Fire escapes now are sturdier and are made known to people in the building.

Brown Brothers. "The 240 employees sewing shirtwaists on the ninth floor had their escape blocked by paired sewing machines on 75-foot long tables, back-to-back chairs and work baskets in the aisles. Walking space was so inadequate that many had to waste precious time climbing over tables to get to the stairs, fire escape, elevators and windows that might lead to safety." Photograph. 1911. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/159.html#screen>. Retrieved November 18, 2023.

We used this image to show how the escape was blocked by long tables with big machinery. This made it harder for those in the ninth floor to easily escape from the flames which led to more casualties to occur.

Brown Brothers. "Unrecognizable bodies lay on the sidewalk along Greene Street, together with hoses, fire rescue nets, and part of a wagon. All were drenched by the tons of water used to contain and extinguish the fire." Photograph. March 25, 2011.. Accessed <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/153.html#screen>. Retrieved November 18, 2023.

The photograph shows bodies piled up on the sidewalk as the firemen continue to put out the fire. We used this to get a glimpse of the terrors the city of New York saw that day.

Brown Brothers. "Working under lights, a police officer holds a small casket amid the wrecked bodies of Triangle fire victims. Nearby, others wait to help carry the dead to the covered 26th Street pier where a temporary police station and morgue had been set up after it was determined that the city morgue was not large enough to handle the fire's casualties." Photograph. March 25, 1911. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/157.html#screen>. Retrieved November 18, 2023.

We used this to show the process many New York police had to take to set up the caskets so the families could start identifying the victims. The morgue wasn't large enough for the amount of casualties from the fire.

Carter, Robert. "Inspector Of Buildings! Record fire for New York, 145 lives lost!!!! Building Fire Proof, Only Fire Escape Collapses. O.K. Inspector." 1911. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/252.html#screen>. Retrieved December 12, 2023

This editorial cartoon shows a skeletal building inspector with a grim smile approving conditions at the Asch Building. It highlights that the building inspector failed to give an honest inspection which led to the death of 146 workers.

"Chief Inspector Looks for Duplication of Triangle Fire Horror in Chicago." *The Day Book*, March 12, 1913, p. 7. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Library of Congress. Accessed <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045487/1913-03-01/ed-2/seq-29/>. Retrieved May 1, 2024.

This source shows that another fire occurred in Chicago, Illinois which could've been prevented if the proper safety procedures were enforced. This helped us understand that many could be impacted by a tragic loss of life, and change must be done to prevent the deaths of many.

Corso, P. *Poems for the triangle shirtwaist factory fire victims*. Mother Jones Museum, 2018. Accessed <https://www.motherjonesmuseumtolive.org/poems-for-the-triangle-shirtwaist-victims>. Retrieved January 20, 2024

These are two poems made by Paola Corso about the fire. We used these poems to show how people were touched by the heart breaking news of the fire and how they used literature to describe the horrific event.

Court of General Session of the Peace, City and County of New York. "People of the State of New York, Before: Hon. Thomas C.T. Crain, Judge against Isaac Harris and Max Blanck." *Cornell University Library - ILR School*. November 1, 1911. Accessed <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/primary/trialRecords/>. Retrieved December 15, 2023.

The trial of the “People of the State of New York vs. Issac Harris and Max Blanck” describes multiple witness accounts to try and prove that the locking of the ninth floor was justified and did not lead to the death of many. This was used as a way to help us understand what happened after the fire and why people felt so strongly about the wrongful death of 146 people.

“Doctors examining each body on the sidewalk and street for signs of life located only a few survivors. Officers gathered personal items for safe keeping and to help identify the victim, including money, pay envelopes, papers, and jewelry, then placed numbered tags on victims before taking them to the 26th Street pier temporary morgue.” Photograph. March 25, 1911. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/152.html#screen>. Retrieved November 18, 2023.

This image shows doctors looking for people that can be saved from a wrongful death. This was used in our photo gallery to provide insight to what the streets looked like the day of the fire.

Dorgan, Thomas Aloysius. “Fire Trap Victims Buried. Draft New Law to Save Shop Workers.” The March 28, 1911 New York Evening Journal cover stories told the horrifying experiences of survivors and witnesses, and asked who was responsible for the catastrophe and what would be done,” March 28, 1911. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/242.html>. Retrieved January 20, 2024.

This newspaper article describes the public’s view of the tragedy and who they think should be held accountable. This was used to show another perspective of what people thought of the Triangle fire.

Fashion Institute of New York/SUNY. “Six Wonderful Waist Values-Your Choice \$1.00.” Advertisement, 1910. *PBS: American Experience*. Accessed <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/triangle-fire-what-shirtwaist/>. Retrieved November 10, 2023.

The advertisement depicts various shirtwaist designs at one dollar. This highlights the idea that shirtwaists were accessible among many classes, showing their historical significance.

"Fire escape of Asch building after the Triangle fire, New York City, 1911," The Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs: Picture Collection, The New York Public Library, *The New York Public Library Digital Collections*. 1911-09. Accessed <https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47e0-ce30-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99>. Retrieved December 16, 2023.

The image depicts a broken fire escape due to the fire on March 25, 1911. This highlights the lack of proper fire safety. The fire escapes weren't properly built, so they failed to provide a path to safety for many workers in the Triangle Shirtwaist factory fire.

"Firefighters and police officers collected jewelry, handbags, money, pay envelopes and other personal objects from victims at the Asch Building and carried them to the 26th Street pier morgue where they were used to help identify the dead." Photograph. March 25, 1911. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/156.html#screen>. Retrieved January 20, 2024.

The image shows firemen with baskets of personal belongings of the victims that were used to help identify the victims. This accentuates the idea that it was difficult to identify the burned bodies without any belongings.

"Firefighters arrived at the Asch Building soon after the alarm was sounded but ladders only reached the sixth floor and the high pressure pumps of the day could not raise the water pressure needed to extinguish the flames on the highest floors of the ten-story building. In this fireproof factory, 146 young men, women, and children lost their lives, and many others were seriously injured." Photograph. March 25, 1922. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/147.html#screen>. Retrieved November 18, 2023.

The photograph shows firefighters actively trying to put out the deadly fire. They tried to use their ladders but they didn't reach high enough. This image helps visualize the struggle to put out the fire while attempting to save as many people as possible.

"Firefighters struggle to extinguish the burning Asch Building," Photograph. March 25, 1911. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/146.html#screen>. Retrieved December 5, 2023.

This image shows the fire fighters trying to put the fire out as fast as they can, but their efforts are in vain as many fall to their death or are trapped and left to burn in the building. We used this image to show the struggles the firefighters went through trying to set off the fire.

"Girls Swear One Door Was Locked, Another Blocked: Survivors, in Affidavit to Buildings Bureau, Confirm Reports Made After Factory Disaster." *New York Tribune*, March 29, 1911, p. 1. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Library of Congress. Accessed <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83030214/1911-03-29/ed-1/seq-1/#words=Disaster+Survivor+Confirm+Factory+Reports+Survivors>. Retrieved May 1, 2024.

This source provides information on what occurred during the fire on the ninth floor. We used this article to provide insight to the day of the fire.

Gonshor, A. "Ballad of the triangle fire / bread and roses": *A yiddish language world premiere*, March 30, 2020. YouTube. Accessed <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ea5a-GCqwE>. Retrieved January 17, 2024.

This is a song made about the fire. We used this specific song because it is sung in Yiddish which is a common language spoken by the girls and it is another example of how the people were touched by this news.

"Group of striking women - shirtwaist workers," 1909. *Library of Congress*. Photograph. Accessed at <http://www.loc.gov/item/2007682973/>. Retrieved on March 10, 2024.

This image depicts Triangle Shirtwaist workers striking a few years before the fire. We used this to show the effort to try to get better working conditions, but they were silenced at every moment.

"Horse-drawn fire engines in street, on their way to the Triangle Shirtwaist Company fire, New York City," March 25, 1911, Photograph, *Library of Congress: Photo, Print, Drawing*. Accessed at [www.loc.gov/item/2002709198/](http://www.loc.gov/item/2002709198/). Retrieved January 13, 2023.

This photograph shows firemen rushing to save the workers on horses. This was used to show the urgency needed to try and save as many people from the fire as they could.

"How Girls Were Trapped at Every Turn, and Some Principals in the Tragedy." *New York Evening Journal*, Photograph. March 28, 1911. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/164.html#screen>. Retrieved November 2, 2023.

This newspaper article was published three days after the fire and it describes the horrors that occurred during the fire. We used this article to show another perspective of what many people felt about the tragedy.

"In an editorial cartoon, a skeleton surrounded by smoke and flames rises from the burning Asch Building and considers the horrifying events below," 1911. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed at <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/247.html>. Retrieved November 13, 2023.

This cartoon illustrates a skeleton that looms over the burning Asch Building. We used this as a way to show how artists felt about the events that occurred at the Triangle Shirtwaist factory on March 25, 1911.

The Industrial Commission. *New York State Industrial Code with Amendments, Additional and Annotations to August 1, 1918*. Albany, J.B. Lyon Company, Printers, 1918. *Hathi Trust*. Accessed at <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015064549937&seq=211>. Retrieved May 2, 2024.

This source went into detail about what the new industrial code was after the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire. We used this to understand our timeline better and how these new laws changed workplace safety and worker rights.

"In the April 5th funeral procession for the seven unidentified fire victims, members of the United Hebrew Trades of New York and the Ladies Waist and Dressmakers Union Local 25, the local that organized Triangle Waist Company workers, carry banners proclaiming 'We Mourn Our Loss.'" Photograph. April 5, 1911. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for*

*Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit.*  
Accessed at <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/184.html>. Retrieved December 18, 2023.

The image depicts the April 5th funeral in which many unions and people came to accompany the families during their grief. This image shows that the death of these women led to an influx of the rise for advocacy for workers rights. We used this image to show how the New York people were sympathetic towards the deaths of these innocent workers.

“Interior view of room gutted by fire which killed 146 in 1911 at the Triangle Shirtwaist Company, New York City.” March 1911, *Library of Congress*. Photograph. Accessed from [www.loc.gov/item/2003652922/](http://www.loc.gov/item/2003652922/). Retrieved December 18, 2023.

The image shows how crowded the building was, as many tables and machines were tightly packed together. This made it harder to escape which led to the death of many. This image was used in the gallery to show the impact the fire had on the interior of the building.

“Investigators on roof of Asch Building - From left to right Coroner Holzhauser, J. R. Rubins, and C. F. Bostwick.” Photograph. 1911. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit.* Accessed at <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/172.html#screen>. Retrieved December 18, 2023.

This image shows investigators on the roof of the building. We used this to show the investigation that occurred for the trial.

Jewish Women's Archive. "Rose Schneiderman's April 2, 1911 Speech." (Viewed on March 1, 2024) <http://jwa.org/media/excerpt-from-rose-schneidermans-april-2-1911-speech>. Retrieved March 15, 2024.

We used a quote from this speech to show how the fire truly sparked the change in workers rights. From this revelation, work unions were established for the sake of the working people.

Joint Board of Sanitary Control. “First Annual Report of the Joint Board of Sanitary Control in the Cloak, Suit and Skirt Industry of Greater New York,” October 1911. *Harvard University*:



*Radcliffe College Library*. Accessed at <https://nrs.lib.harvard.edu/urn-3:rad.schl:479526>. Retrieved March 12, 2024.

We used a quote from this report to show how the fire changed the way the board changed the way they approached fire protection protocols. This forever changed fire procedures in New York City.

Library of Congress. "Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire: Topics in Chronicling America." *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Accessed at <https://guides.loc.gov/chronicling-america-triangle-shirtwaist-factory-fire>. Retrieved December 3, 2023.

We used this image to show the sketches of the bodies of the workers in the factory fire who died while trying to escape. The cartoon was easily available to multiple people, so society can be aware of the horrific sights the fire caused leading to worker rights movements.

"Le Tragedie Del Lavoro," *Il Progresso Ilato-Americano.*, March 28, 1911. Library of Congress. Photograph. Accessed at [www.loc.gov/item/2002719609/](http://www.loc.gov/item/2002719609/). Retrieved December 28, 2023.

This Italian newspaper article describes the horrible fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist factory. We used this to show that the fire sparked a fight for worker's rights that transcend language barriers.

"Marching through cold rain and mud, protesters hoped to rally support. Signs call for fire drills in every shop, closed shops with union contracts, an end to political graft and to days spent working in fire traps," 1911. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed at <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/188.html#screen>. Retrieved March 2, 2024.

This image shows protestors fighting for fire safety regulations to be put in place. This highlights the strong sense of community and advocacy to prevent a deadly fire like the one on March 25, 1911, from happening again.

"Max Blanck and Isaac Harris, owners of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory," 1910. Kheel Center, Cornell University, Image Identifier 5780pbx39ff19. Accessed at <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/142.html>. Retrieved December 5, 2023.

This image shows Max Blanck and Isaac Harris, the owners of the Triangle Shirtwaist factory. We used this image to give a face to the Shirtwaist Kings that locked their workers in a burning building.

“Mourning & Protest, Victims and Survivors,” 1911. Photos & Illustrations. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management -The Triangle Factory Fire*.  
<https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/188.html#screen> Retrieved March 13, 2024.

This image shows protestors fighting for fire safety regulations to be put in place. This highlights the strong sense of community and advocacy to prevent a deadly fire like the one on March 25, 1911, from happening again.

Newman, Pauline M. “Letter to Micheal and Hugh Owens,” May 1951. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed at  
<http://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/primary/letters/PaulineNewman.html>. Retrieved May 3, 2024.

This letter helped us include new information of how it felt like working at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory. This helped us understand that the working conditions of the factory were unbearable which led to the Uprising 20,000.

"New York Horror to be Probed: Fire Sends Nearly One Hundred and Fifty into Eternity." *The Democratic Banner*, March 28, 1911, p. 1. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Library of Congress. Accessed at  
<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn88078751/1911-03-28/ed-1/seq-1/#words=Waist+fire+waist+factory+Fire+waists+NEW+New+York>. Retrieved April 29, 2024.

This source describes the horror that people saw and how they felt about the current situation. This helped us understand that people reacted in a way that started a change in worker's rights and labor rights.

New York Tribune editor. “Asch Building Fire Helps Better Laws.” *New York Tribune*, 25 Mar. 1912, p. 5. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Library of Congress, Accessed at  
<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83030214/1912-03-25/ed-1/seq-5/>. Retrieved May

1, 2024.

This newspaper article helped us gain more perspectives on the Triangle Fire, and how it helped improve the lives of many. The source informed us that the New York State Factory Investigating Committee was successful in implementing fire drills in order to keep workers informed and safe.

"Not a Chance for the Girls." *The Yakima Herald*, March 29, 1911, p.6. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Library of Congress. Accessed at <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn88085523/1911-03-29/ed-1/seq-6/>. Retrieved May 1, 2024.

Using this Newspaper, we were able to pull out a quote about what disaster would befall, if nothing is done after the fire.

"Only Fire Escape in New York Sweatshop Fire Was a Fire Trap." *The Tacoma Times*, April 4, 1911, p. 7. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Library of Congress. Accessed at <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn88085187/1911-04-04/ed-1/seq-7/#words=Fire+fire+escape+Escape>. Retrieved May 2, 2024.

This newspaper shows a photo of the latter that some of the girls tried to use to escape the fire on the 10th floor. The description helps us understand how the fire escape inadequate

"Plan of Ninth Floor," 1911. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives*, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit. Accessed at <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/144.html#screen>. Retrieved December 18, 2023.

This photo depicts the Asch Building's 9th floor on the corner of Greene Street and Washington Place and shows the layout of eight, long tables in relation to the cloak room, windows, fire escape, elevators, and stairs. According to the building's description, high ceilings included in the space-per-person calculations allowed owners to employ 240 people in a relatively-small area resulting in the rapid transmission of illness among workers and leaving little space for moving safely through the room. We wanted to include this image to show how difficult it was to escape the fire.

Podolsky, R. "Remembering the triangle shirtwaist factory fire," *Shondaland*, March 23, 2018.  
Accessed at <https://www.shondaland.com/act/a20876785/triangle-shirtwaist-factory-fire>  
Retrieved March 06, 2024.

We used this website to include a quote of Rose Safran. It describes how she felt that if the strikes and protests were successful, the fire wouldn't have happened and her friends would have been saved.

Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition, Workers United / SEIU (ILGWU), and the New York City Central Labor Council "Unveiling and Dedication of the Triangle Fire Memorial," October 11, 2023. *CasaItalianaNYU*. Accessed at <https://www.youtube.com/live/0BKngpn9gwU?si=rzI-w2beHqjpLUA>. Retrieved November 18, 2023.

This video is the unveiling of the Triangle Shirtwaist factory fire memorial. We used this video to show how the Triangle fire still impacts the fight for workers' rights today.

"Saw Factory Door Open: Witnesses in Triangle Fire." *New York Tribune*, December 20, 1911, p. 14. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Library of Congress. Accessed at <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83030214/1911-12-20/ed-1/seq-14/>. Retrieved May 6, 2024.

This source helped us understand the things that were discussed during the trial. We used it to gain more perspectives on what actually occurred the day of the fire.

"Scenes Showing Where 150 Perished in a 'Fireproof' Firetrap." *New York Evening Journal*, Photograph. March 27, 1911. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed at <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/162.html>. Retrieved December 18, 2023.

This newspaper article provides images that prove that the Asch Building was a "fire trap." We wanted to show how the public felt about the fire.

"Sewing machine operators, mostly women, work at long, paired tables overseen by managers. Work baskets fill the space between chairs and scraps clutter the floor around their feet," 1900. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation &*

Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit. Accessed at <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/237.html>. Retrieved January 5, 2023.

This image highlights how tight packed the workers were. They were surrounded by flammable material which made it easier for the fire to spread. We wanted to show that the workers were given horrible conditions in which they must work.

Stein, Leon. "Interview with Abe Gordon," June 12, 1958. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed at [trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/primary/survivorInterviews/AbeGordon.html](https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/primary/survivorInterviews/AbeGordon.html). Retrieved December 28, 2023.

This interview with Abe Gordon provided insight to the fire and the trial that occurred after the fire. We used her interview to pull quotes to show the treatment the survivors got from the owners of the Triangle Shirtwaist factory.

Stein, Leon. "Interview with Celia Walker Friedman," August 8, 1957. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed at [trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/primary/survivorInterviews/CeliaWalkerFriedman.html](https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/primary/survivorInterviews/CeliaWalkerFriedman.html). Retrieved December 29, 2023.

We used this interview to have as many accounts from the fire as we can. With more perspectives we saw how the workers were treated after the fire. Their first hand accounts helped us understand how the public felt outraged at the conditions in the factory fire.

Stein, Leon. "Interview with Eraclio Montanaro," February 3, 1958. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed at <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/primary/survivorInterviews/EraclioMontanaro.html>. Retrieved March 08, 2024

This interview with Eraclio Montanaro describes what they saw as an eye witness on the day of the fire. This interview describes the trauma they felt after watching such a horrific event. We used this to show how anyone could've seen the fire and wanted to fight for better conditions, so fires as deadly as this one don't occur again.

Stein, Leon. "Interview with Frank Rubino," February 6, 1958. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed at <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/primary/survivorInterviews/FrankRubino.html>. Retrieved March 3, 2024.

This interview provides a perspective from a firefighter during the fire. We used this to gain more perspectives of what many people felt at the fire.

Stein, Leon. "Interview with Mary Domsky Abrams," Date Unknown. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed at <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/primary/survivorInterviews/MaryDomskyAbrams.html>. Retrieved March 3, 2024.

This interview with Mary Domsky-Abrams provides insight to what it was like on the 9th floor and as a witness to the trial. We used her quotes to show a variety of experiences dealing with the aftermath of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire.

Stein, Leon. "Interview with Rose Indursky," September 19, 1957. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed at <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/primary/survivorInterviews/RoseIndursky.html>. Retrieved December 28, 2023.

This interview with fire survivor Rose Indursky helped us see how unaware people working in the factory were of the proper fire safety procedures. The workers didn't know where the fire escapes were.

Stein, Leon. "Interview with Sarah Friedman Dworetz," June 12, 1958. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed at [trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/primary/survivorInterviews/SarahDworetz.html](https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/primary/survivorInterviews/SarahDworetz.html). Retrieved December 28, 2023.

This document provided insight about experiences after the fire. We used this interview to connect and try to fully understand what the survivors felt like after the Triangle fire.

Stein, Leon. *Out of the Sweatshop: The Struggle for Industrial Democracy* (New York: Quadrangle/New Times Book Company, 1977), pp. 193-194. Cornell University - ILR School Kheel Center, Remembering The 1911 Triangle Factory Fire. Accessed at <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/primary/>. Retrieved November 18, 2023.

This archive includes testimonials from survivors of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory. It helped develop imagery of what the victims and survivors endured on the day of the fire. We used these testimonials to have evidence of what the survivors went through.

"Strike Funds Low; Arbitration Fails: Shirtwaistmakers in Need as Employers Reject State Board's Settlement Plan." *The New York Times*, January 5, 1910. Accessed at <https://archive.nytimes.com/learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/03/25/100-years-later-examining-the-impact-of-the-triangle-shirtwaist-factory-fire/>. Retrieved May 2, 2024.

This source provides insight to what the strike before the fire was like. It helped us understand how the strike struggled financially to prove their point, and ultimately were left unheard by the owners of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory.

"Sweeping Investigations to Fix Blame for Fire." Photograph. March 27, 1911. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed at <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/211.html>. Retrieved November 18, 2023.

The March 27, 1911 Evening Telegram explained how Fannie Lansner saved the lives of other girls before jumping to her death. In this article, there are 15 photos of the victims. We used this to show that the fire was widely referenced and people were able to use this event as a catalyst for the fight for worker's rights.

"The Asch Building was one of the new 'fireproof' buildings, but the blaze on March 25th was not their first. It was also not the only unsafe building where so many young immigrant women worked six or seven days each week," Photograph. March 25, 1911. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/148.html#screen>. Retrieved December 18, 2023.

This image depicts the Asch building before the blaze. We used this to show that the building was falsely labeled as fireproof, which led to the death of many young workers.

"The day after the blaze, grief-stricken crowds gathered at the site of the tragedy crying out the names of their loved ones, begging for information, and struggling to come to terms with the reality of their worst fears." Photograph. March 26, 1911. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed at <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/173.html>. Retrieved November 6, 2023.

This image shows the crowds of people watching this horrible tragedy. They overflow the streets as they watch the workers fall and burn. The city of New York mourned together as they saw the tragedy unfold. We used this to show what was happening in the streets of New York and to show what the people living in New York saw that day.

"The flimsy fire escape ladder descended close to the building forcing those fleeing to struggle through flames and past warped iron window shutters stuck open across their path. Sections of ladder which ended two stories above the ground, twisted and collapsed under the weight of workers trying to escape the fire, killing many who had chosen it as their lifeline," Photograph, 1911. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed at <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/149.html#screen>. Retrieved December 18, 2023.

This image depicts a broken fire escape ladder that proved to be ineffective in saving the lives of those in the Triangle Shirtwaist factory fire. This shows that proper safety laws weren't enforced as strictly as they should've been.

The Industrial Commission. *New York State Industrial Code with Amendments, Additional and Annotations to August 1, 1918*. Albany, J.B. Lyon Company, Printers, 1918. *Haithi Trust*.



Accessed at <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015064549937&seq=211>.  
Retrieved May 2, 2024.

This was the Industrial Code with the changes in detail by describing the exact things the Fire Commission implemented after the fire. We gained more information on how the fire impacted industrial codes. We used this to improve our knowledge of our timeline.

The Woman Rebel. "'Fire Prevention Adviser' Arraigned by Woman's Paper." *The Milwaukee Leader*, July 1, 1914. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Library of Congress. Accessed at <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045293/1914-07-01/ed-1/seq-7/>. Retrieved April 29, 2024.

The source provides varying opinions on the newly implemented laws and regulations set in place following the Triangle Factory fire. It really helped us understand that not everyone seemed delighted with the new laws to protect them from deadly fires.

"The Women's Trade Union League campaigned for the 8-hour workday, safe working conditions, and respect for women at work and in society," 1900. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed at <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/241.html#screen>. Retrieved January 20, 2024.

This image depicts the Women's Trade Union League which fought for better working conditions, just a few months before the fire. This image shows us that listening to a cry for help can prevent misfortunate events like the workplace fire on March 25, 1911.

"This lock, with the bolt shot, was found after the fire, in the debris about the ninth-floor door, through which more than a hundred girls attempted vainly to escape. The locking of this door was one of the charges on which Max Blanck and Isaac Harris were indicted for manslaughter." Photograph. 1911. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed at <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/165.html#screen>. Retrieved November 11, 2023.

The image shows the locked door on the ninth floor. It locked out many of the workers from safety. We wanted this image to go with a quote that highlights that if the door had been locked, many of the workers on the ninth floor would still be alive today.

"To Try Owners for Death of 146 Employees." *San Antonio Light*, December 3, 1911, p. 13. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Library of Congress. Accessed at <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85060004/1911-12-03/ed-1/seq-13/>. Retrieved April 28, 2024.

This source showed us how people all over the state really came together to fight to prevent another tragedy like the Triangle Fire and to create a proper punishment for the owners responsible for the mass loss of life.

"Triangle Waist Co. fire, N.Y.C.--Crowds outside pier morgue," March 1911. Photograph. Library of Congress: George Grantham Bain Collection. Accessed at [www.loc.gov/item/96513967/](http://www.loc.gov/item/96513967/). Retrieved December 9, 2023.

This image shows many crowds outside of the morgue. This image was used to show how many people were affected by the tragic deaths that occurred on March 25, 1911.

"Triangle Waist Company owners Isaac Harris (front row near center with hands folded) and Max Blanck (in a dark suit to the right of Harris) with a group, probably visitors and workers at one of their factories," 1910. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed at <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/143.html#screen>. Retrieved November 20, 2023

This photograph demonstrates the owners of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory along with workers and some visitors. This image was to introduce the workers who were part of the 146 deaths in the factory fire and the culprits, Isaac Harris and Max Blanck as mentioned in the thesis statement.

"Triangle Shirt Waist Manufacturers Listening To Testimony Against Them: Max Blanck and Isaac Harris," 1911. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management,*

Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit. Accessed at <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/254.html>. Retrieved November 16, 2023.

This historical cartoon by an unknown artist depicts the owners of the Triangle Shirtwaist factory listening to the testimony against them during the trial. We wanted to include this image in the “Turning Point” section of our website to show that the public believed that the trial’s results were unjust, which sparked the beginning of a call for change.

“We Mourn Our Loss,” April 5, 1911. Photos & Illustrations. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management - The Triangle Factory Fire*. <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/185.html> Retrieved March 3, 2024.

This image shows the ribbon a labor union made to show support to those who lost loved ones during the fire. We used it to highlight how the whole community joined together to mourn the mass loss of life in the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire.

“Women posed for a group photograph reveal close friendships, sewing forms, and scattered waste fabric,” 1910. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed at <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/240.html#screen>. Retrieved December 10, 2023.

The image is used to provide insight on the immigrant workers during their time in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory. The picture also shows the girls’ youth and innocence through their close relationship. Unfortunately, their innocence was taken away from them through the exploitation of the factory owners.

“Workers in the dressmaking room. ‘Some firms have dressmaking departments such as this in their own buildings; others have distinct plants in town or outside the city. Several hundred people are employed in this way by many of the large firms,’ 1900. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit*. Accessed at <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/238.html#screen>. Retrieved November 12, 2023.

This image shows many women working in crowded rooms. We wanted to use this image to highlight the working condition that the workers at the Triangle Shirtwaist factory had to endure.

"Young women, sewing machine operators, take a break for a group photograph. Though they smile and relax in the sun-lit factory, the work space is crowded and would be difficult to exit quickly in an emergency," 1910. *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management, Documentation & Archives*, Triangle Factory Fire Online Exhibit. Accessed at <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/slides/239.html#screen>. Retrieved December 10, 2023.

The image is used to elaborate on the working conditions of the workers in the factory. Through the image it is obvious that the conditions were poor because of the little space available for the workers. The fact that even on break the girls were in their station shows the owners obsession with mass production.

## **Secondary Sources**

American Experience (Ed.). "Shirtwaist kings". *PBS*, 2011. Accessed at <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/shirtwaist-kings/> Retrieved Decemeber 13, 2023.

We used this article to know what happened to the Shirtwaist Kings after the trial and the accusations towards them. We know that they were let free and worked to rebuild their company.

Auch, Mary Jane. *Ashes of Roses*. MacMillian, 2002. Accessed at [https://books.google.com/books/about/Ashes\\_of\\_Roses.html?id=YCcf4hhKfLMC](https://books.google.com/books/about/Ashes_of_Roses.html?id=YCcf4hhKfLMC). Retrieved January 20, 2022.

This novel shed light on the immigrant experience as a worker in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory. We read this book in 8th grade, and it inspired us to choose this as our History Day topic.

Baruch College Zicklin School of Business. "Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire - 1911." *NYCDATA: Disasters*, 2021. Accessed at [https://baruch.cuny.edu/nycdata/disasters/fires-triangle\\_shirtwaist.html](https://baruch.cuny.edu/nycdata/disasters/fires-triangle_shirtwaist.html). Retrieved May 08, 2024.

This article provides information about the fire escapes, staircases, and the locked doors. We use it to talk about which specific staircases led to the fire or the locked door.

Espar, David. "Triangle Fire." *PBS, Public Broadcasting Service*, 2011, Accessed at <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/triangle/#part01>. Retrieved October 28, 2023.

This documentary describes the events of the fire. The imagery in this documentary helped us understand the connection between the strikes, the fire and the laws that were put in place after the tragedy.

Frederick, Jim. "How the Triangle Fire Transformed Workplace Safety." *DOL Blog*, March 25, 2021, Accessed at <https://blog.dol.gov/2021/03/25/how-the-triangle-fire-transformed-workplace-safety#:~:text=These%20employees%20%E2%80%93%20many%20of%20whom,workers%20and%20injured%20dozens%20more>. Retrieved November 18, 2023.

This website was used to gather different information like the conditions of the workers and the events that took place on the day of the fire. To be more clear, through the website we were able to learn that the workers had long shifts, minimum 12 hours and how some of the workers escaped the building.

Grey, Robert. "Triangle History," *Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire Memorial*, 2024. Accessed at <https://trianglememorial.org/triangle-history/#:~:text=The%20company%20employed%20five%20hundred.doors%20leading%20to%20the%20exits>. Retrieved November 18, 2023.

We used this website to find more relevant information to the immigrants working in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory. We were able to discover that most of the immigrants' ethnicities were mostly Italian or Jewish.

Hazelwood, Rachel. "The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire," *The Journal of Undergraduate Scholarship*, 12, pp 24-88, 2020. Accessed at <https://digitalcommons.longwood.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1003&context=incite#page=75>, Retrieved December 20, 2023.

This journal article describes the events of the day of the fire. We used this journal to provide insight to what the public could see happening during this atrocity.

History.com (Ed.). "Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire - date, significance, cause." *Early 20th Century U.S.* October 4, 2023. Accessed at <https://www.history.com/topics/early-20th-century-us/triangle-shirtwaist-fire> Retrieved January 12, 2024.

Harris and Blanck had gone to trial for the murder charges against them. We used this article to help us gather information of what they did with the insurance check given to them after the trial.

"Introduction." Cornell University - ILR School Kheel Center, 2018. Accessed at <https://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/story/introduction.html>. Retrieved October 28, 2023.

This site provides base level information about the Triangle Shirtwaist factory fire. We used it to help us gather basic details of the fire and historical context.

Kolen, Amy. "Fire." *The Massachusetts Review*, vol. 42, no. 1, 2001, pp. 13-36. *JSTOR*, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25091716>. Accessed May 13, 2024.

We used this source to highlight the exploitation the workers went through. This helped us understand that the bad working conditions led women to strike in the Uprising of the 20,000.

Lange, Brenda. *The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire*. Infobase Publishing, 2009. Accessed at <https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=NCPvZKz4Fw8C&oi=fnd&pg=PP1&dq=triangle+shirtwaist+factory+fire&ots=Fsw8Mjwp0O&sig=YtFR0snCHCUDIicrmVVfoxOZPvo#v=onepage&q=triangle%20shirtwaist%20factory%20fire&f=false>. Retrieved October 27, 2023.

This book describes the Triangle Shirtwaist factory fire and how it affected the workers and the life before the fire. We used page 14 of the book to understand what it was like as an immigrant to work at the factory.

Liebhold, Peter. "What you may not know about the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire," *Smithsonian National Museum of American History*. Accessed at <https://americanhistory.si.edu/explore/stories/what-you-may-not-know-about-triangle-shirtwaist-factory-fire>. Retrieved December 13, 2023.

This article contains a photo of a shirtwaist made by Fisk, Clark & Flagg in about 1910." According to the article, shirtwaists, tailored blouses of the 1890s and early 1900s, became especially popular with working-class women because, unlike a full dress, they were easy to clean and offered freedom of movement. We used this to show how most of the shirts were made.

Linder, Douglas O. "The Triangle Shirtwaist Fire Trial: Building and Safety Laws. *UMKC School of Law*. Accessed at <https://www.famous-trials.com/trianglefire/971-trianglecodes#:~:text=New%20York%20State%20Labor%20Laws,or%20fastened%20during%20working%20hours.%22>. Retrieved December 5, 2023.

Through this document we were able to learn that there was only one fire escape, however the fire escape failed to lead to the yard with a balcony and eventually collapsed. The website also includes different details of the building's poor fire safety regulations. The building did not have fire drills or sprinklers which changed after the turning point of the fire.

Markel, Dr. Howard. "How the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire Transformed Labor Laws and Protected Workers' Health." *PBS*, Public Broadcasting Service, 1 Apr. 2021, Accessed at

[www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/how-the-triangle-shirtwaist-factory-fire-transformed-labor-law-s-and-protected-workers-health](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/how-the-triangle-shirtwaist-factory-fire-transformed-labor-law-s-and-protected-workers-health). Retrieved December 17, 2024

This source helped us create our timeline and deepened our understanding of how the tragedy changed labor laws. We were able to visualize the effects of the Triangle Fire.

Mrs. J's History. "Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire 1911." *You Tube*, October 25, 2006. Accessed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cT8fah14WDs>. Retrieved December 17, 2023.

We used this video to expand our knowledge about the event that took place during the fire. It includes details pertaining to the workers' attempts to escape and the reaction of the public.

Onion, Amanda, Missy Sullivan, Matt Mullen, and Christian Zapata. "Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire," *History.com*, October 4, 2023. Accessed at [www.history.com/topics/early-20th-century-us/triangle-shirtwaist-fire](http://www.history.com/topics/early-20th-century-us/triangle-shirtwaist-fire). Retrieved November 1, 2024.

We used this website to support our information in the historical context. We were able to elaborate on how the fire started by finding out it involved a rag bin.

PBS. "What is a Shirtwaist?" *American Experience*. Accessed at <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/triangle-fire-what-shirtwaist/>. Retrieved December 17, 2023.

This website is used to give more insight into the reputation of Max Blanck and Isaac Harris and their prized production of shirtwaists. Through this site we were able to find out that the shirtwaist was a competitive industry. Because of the high demands of their shirtwaists, the owners exploited the workers for mass production.

Pontone, M. (October 11, 2023). *New NYC Memorial honors triangle shirtwaist factory victims*. Hyperallergic. Accessed at



<https://hyperallergic.com/850108/new-nyc-memorial-honors-triangle-shirtwaist-factory-victims/> Retrieved January 10, 2024.

In this article it gives more specific details of the memorial. We used it to describe the building itself, when it was unveiled, and who built it. We also included photos from this source on our website to help the viewer picture the memorial.

Shannon Doyne, Holly Epstein Ojalvo and Katherine Schulten. "100 Years Later: Examining the Impact of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire." *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 25 Mar. 2011, Accessed at [archive.nytimes.com/learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/03/25/100-years-later-examining-the-impact-of-the-triangle-shirtwaist-factory-fire/](https://archive.nytimes.com/learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/03/25/100-years-later-examining-the-impact-of-the-triangle-shirtwaist-factory-fire/). Retrieved May 3, 2024.

Because of this source, we were able to access new information about various aspects of the fire like what was being done to improve fire procedures and regulations before the fire and what happened after the fire. As a result we were able to understand how the Triangle Shirtwaist factory was the major event that prompted crucial reforms to fire and labor laws.

The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. "Triangle shirtwaist factory fire." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, December 27, 2023. Accessed at <https://www.britannica.com/event/Triangle-shirtwaist-factory-fire>. Retrieved January 29, 2024.

This source provided background information about the Triangle Shirtwaist fire. We used Britannica to learn historical context and how the fire started.

"Triangle Shirtwaist Fire." *American Federation of Labor & Congress of Industrial Organizations*. Accessed at <https://aflcio.org/about/history/labor-history-events/triangle-shirtwaist-fire#:~:text=The%20factories%20also%20were%20unsanitary,to%20prevent%20the%20E%28%9Cinterruption%20of>. Retrieved January 29, 2024.

This website provides insight to the life of a Triangle Shirtwaist factory worker. We used this website to learn more about the experiences of working at the Triangle.

U.S. Census Bureau. "The Triangle Shirtwaist Fire of 1911," *History*, March 2016. Accessed at [https://www.census.gov/history/www/homepage\\_archive/2016/march\\_2016.html](https://www.census.gov/history/www/homepage_archive/2016/march_2016.html). Retrieved December 14, 2023.

This website provides information about the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire. We used this official government website to understand the correlation between the fire and the new laws after the fire.

U.S. Department of Labor. "The New York Factory Investigating Commission." *About Us: History*. Accessed at <https://www.dol.gov/general/aboutdol/history/mono-regsafepart07#:~:text=The%20main%20purpose%20of%20the, had%20stressed%20the%20health%20problem>. Retrieved December 3, 2023.

This website provides information about the New York Factory Investigating Commission. We used this website to gain information about the direct effects of the workplace fire on advocacy for better working conditions.

U.S. Department of Labor. "The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire." *Occupational Safety and Health Administration*, March 23, 2012. Accessed at <https://www.osha.gov/aboutosha/40-years/trianglefactoryfire>. Retrieved November 5, 2023.

We used this article to inform ourselves more on the reaction of the public. The public was enraged and set the cause for the creation of labor unions that pushed for higher wages and better conditions.

Von Drehle, David. *Triangle: The Fire That Changed America*. Grove Press, 2023. Accessed at <https://www.google.com/books/edition/Triangle/Zj5WVl0qoxkC?hl=en>. Retrieved November 8, 2023 .

This book provides information about the workplace fire. We read this book to get a better understanding of the events that took place.

Wagner, Ella. "International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union." *National Park Service*, U.S. Department of the Interior, March 9, 2022. Accessed at

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/international-ladies-garment-workers-union.htm>. Retrieved November 5, 2023.

The article talks about the The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union which were protests advocating for better working conditions. We used it to talk about the type of unions made during this time calling for a change.