STEEL MILL WORKERS
1909

Many social reformers during the early twentieth century focused on child labor. Photographer Lewis Hine used his camera to capture the harshness of children’s lives in factories, and he prepared a special study of Pittsburgh steel mills which was used to bolster the claims of reformers.

READING FOCUS:
What does this photograph show you about working in steel mills in the early twentieth century?

National Archive (NARA)
Analysis Questions:
1. What do these workers have in common?
2. What injuries does it appear a worker might get in this job?

Answers:
1. They are all young men.
2. back problems, burns, crushed fingers or toes