

How much were children paid in Britain during the Industrial Revolution?

"They [boys of eight years] used to get 3d [d is the abbreviation for pence] or 4d a day. Now a man's wages is divided into eight eighths; at eleven, two eighths; at thirteen, three eighths; at fifteen, four eighths; at twenty, a man's wages is about 15s [shillings]."

Source: "Child Labor in Factories - Needham Public Schools." 2010. 23 Oct. 2014
<http://www2.needham.k12.ma.us/nhs/cur/Baker_00/2002_p7/ak_p7/childlabor.html>

Child Labor Math:

Look at the information below and calculate how much a child in Britain was paid per day during the Industrial Revolution. Calculate the dollar amount.

- Before 1970 there were 20 shillings per pound and 12 pence per shilling, and thus there were 240 pence in a pound.
- 3 pence in 1850 is equal to the **purchasing power** of 1.2 Pounds in England in 2014
- 1 Pound is equal to about \$1.60 in US dollars

If a child was paid 3 pence in 1850, do the calculation on how much that would be per day in today's dollars and purchasing powers? Show the formula and the answer below.

How much would an eight year old make per week, if they worked six days a week?

Weekly Wages

An **adult** worker in 1850 earned about 15 shillings per week, which is the equivalent weekly wage of 70 Pounds per week in today's **purchasing power**. How much did an average English worker make in today's dollars?

How much would an 11 year old get per week, who earned 2/8ths of an adult salary?

How much would a 15 year old get per week, who earned 4/8ths of an adult's salary?

Learning More About Child Labor - Finding Sources and Evidence

Go to Gale Group Database by clicking on the link on our web page. The password is *jimmy*. Look for sources and evidence to answer the questions below.

What additional evidence can you find out about the working conditions of children in Britain during the Industrial Revolution? Put the source and evidence here.

Were working conditions for children in the US similar or different than Britain, during our Industrial Revolution? Put the source and evidence here.

When were **child labor laws** passed in both Britain and the US? What did the laws say about children working? Put the source and evidence here.

Is child labor still a problem in the world today? Put the source and evidence here.

Are there efforts to stop child labor today? Put the source and details here.