



PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSIS TOOL

OBSERVE

I see a map of the United States with a big messy spot over the Eastern portion of it. There are words over the spot that say "child labor." An "Uncle Sam"-type figure in striped pants stands away from the spot. The cartoon is labeled "An Awful Blot."

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REFLECT

I think the Uncle Sam figure is a symbol of the United states, because I have seen him in other posters. I think that the cartoonist was arguing that child labor makes the country look bad. That's why the Uncle Sam figure looks so sad. The spot is very big, so I guess that the problem is a big problem. I think that child labor (kids working) mostly affects the Eastern states that are covered by the black spot. It looks like the ink also splatters into other parts of the map.

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QUESTION

Where was this cartoon published? Who was the intended audience? Was child labor mostly a problem in the Eastern United States, or was it a problem throughout the country?

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FURTHER INVESTIGATION

I want to know what was so bad about child labor. Why did the creator of this cartoon feel it was a blot against the country?