

Never Forgotten | Educational Resources

Section Four | **The Strike**



A. The Strike | Discussion Questions:

Part | In Vancouver

1. Under what circumstances do you think workers decide to strike?
2. How did the Relief Camps strikers raise awareness of their demands? Describe their actions and the public's response.
3. How did women participate in the protests? What does their involvement reveal about their role in society at that time?
4. Was there any opposition to the strike? How did the authorities view the protestors?
5. Describe the conflict of jurisdiction between the provincial and federal government? Why was this conflict an issue for the strikers? What was the strikers' solution to this problem?

B. The Strike | Activities:

Strike

Step One: Imagine you are a member of the Relief Camp Workers' Union. You have been asked to write an article for the clandestine bulletin encouraging camp workers to join the strike.

Step Two: Your article should include a headline and explain why walking out is the necessary course of action. You may also wish to include both information and photographs from the video.

Step Four: If done as a class project, once students are finished the assignment the articles could be compiled to create an issue of the Workers' bulletin.

International Workers Day

Step One: Ask the students to look at the photograph below (taken in Vancouver on May 1st, 1935). Write down their first thoughts on the scene.



International Workers Day Demonstration, Vancouver, May 1, 1935. Vancouver Public Library.

Step Two: Encourage the students to share their initial observations on the photograph. Questions to encourage discussion may include:

What demographic is represented in the photograph?

What written clues are present that help explain what is occurring in the photograph?

Step Three: Either in small groups or independently have students conduct research into the origins of International Workers Day (or May Day). Some questions to help guide research may include:

What is the purpose of International Workers Day?

Where do these demonstrations take place? Provide both national and international examples.

Step Four: Re-examine the photograph below with the knowledge you have acquired about International Workers Day. Why might high school students have been present at the May Day protest in 1935?

Step Five: Design a plan (program of activities) for the commemoration of International Workers Day at your school.

