

archives

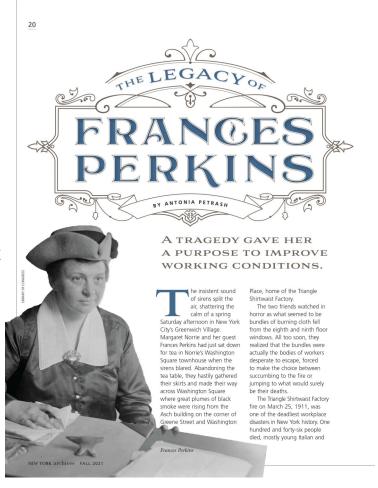
Educator Guide Fall 2021

# archives

#### On Behalf of the Workers: Labor Reform and Worker Protections

Frances Perkins spent her life improving working conditions and protecting the American worker. She advocated for an increase in minimum working age to protect children and led the fight to prevent future tragedies like the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire of 1911.

## Compelling Question: What rights do workers have?



This guide includes supporting questions to aid students in the reading of the article and analysis questions for understanding the primary sources. All educational materials are aligned to the New York State Social Studies Framework. The learning objectives are taken directly from the Social Studies Practices and the content fits within the framework.

#### **Learning Objectives**

Students will be able to:

 create meaningful and persuasive understandings of the past by fusing disparate and relevant evidence from primary and secondary sources and

#### Link to Full Article

https://www.nysarchivestrust.org/application/files/2816/3120/3088/archivesmag\_fall2021.pdf



#### THE LEGACY OF FRANCES PERKINS

#### **Setting the Stage**

Show this video from pbslearningmedia.org to begin a discussion about labor conditions https://ny.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/arct.socst.ush.tri09trianglestrike/the-triangle-shirtwaist-strike/



#### Guided Reading Questions

- 1. What historical event is described in the first paragraph?
- 2. When did this event take place?
- 3. Why did so many people die during this event?
- 4. Why did Frances Perkins move to New York?
- 5. What conditions did Perkins witness while working in New York?
- 6. What was the job of the New York Factory Commission?
- 7. What was Perkins' role in the Commission?
- 8. What did the Commission accomplish?
- 9. Why was child labor a major concern?
- 10. What actions did the Commission take?
- 11. What role did Perkins serve in Franklin Roosevelt's presidency?
- 12. What federal law currently governs worker safety?

### **Document Analysis**



Library of Congress

#### **Analysis Questions**

- 1. Where was this photograph taken?
- 2. Who do you see in the photograph?
- 3. What are the people in the photograph doing?
- 4. How do you think they feel about this activity?
- 5. Would you be able to find a scene like this in the United States today? Why or why not?