

Labor in the East

- Lowell System
 - Created by Francis Lowell who stole the idea from England
 - Memorized how the spinning and weaving machines worked
 - Brought the system back to America (was very profitable)
 - Used water power to fuel mills
- Benefits
 - Allowed women more freedom that they would get in rural New England
 - Workers were allowed to take classes / further their education in their free time
- Hours
 - Typically worked 14 hours a day
 - Very strict bell system
 - Only short 15min-half hour breaks for meals
 - This became a huge problem and lead to reform efforts
- Dangers
 - Windows could not be opened = Breathing problems from wool/dust
 - SUPER HOT
 - Would lock doors, if fires started people couldn't get out
 - Girls had to wear their hair up or else it would get caught in machines
 - Long hours, mindless work
- Pay - between \$2-4 a week