**1911: The Triangle Factory Fire**

Before reading the article, answer the following questions about the photo on page 16 of the March 16, 2011 edition of *UpFront.*

1. Why do you think this factory in Georgia employed these young boys? Why might they have worked there?
2. Do you think they had much say in their working conditions? Explain your reasoning.
3. How might their lives have differed from yours?

After reading the article, answer the following questions:

**Critical Thinking**

1. Before the 1930s, few laws protected American factory workers. What might workplaces be like without such protections?
2. Define “sweatshop.”
3. Why would a company set up such a work environment?
4. What types of people typically worked in sweatshops in the US, and why did they tolerate such conditions?
5. Do sweatshops still exist? Where? Why?
6. Are US companies responsible for the working conditions at their factories overseas? Explain your reasoning.
7. Why were the Triangle owners acquitted? Do you think they deserved punishment? Explain.

**Note**: The families of 23 workers who died in the Triangle fire sued the company’s owners in civil court. The court awarded each family $75 (the equivalent of $1,700 today).

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