



A Union of Professionals

in our own backyard

THE HIDDEN PROBLEM OF
CHILD FARMWORKERS IN AMERICA

<http://www.ourownbackyard.org>

Part IV: Teacher Resources

How To Use This Site

A guide for teachers on how to use the Web resource in the classroom.



How to Use this Site

This site is designed to help you and your students learn more about the hidden problem of child farmworkers in America and consider ways to address the problem. The resources have been structured to facilitate a public policy approach to studying this issue. With your guidance, students should be able to use the site as a platform for research and investigation, after which they will be able to:

- Explain the current laws pertaining to child farmworkers in the United States;
- Describe the human impact of these laws;
- Outline the historical and international context of child labor laws;
- Assess alternatives for addressing the current problem; and
- Make and defend a policy recommendation on the issue.

The resources on this site have been compiled from numerous respected sources to ensure meaningful student exploration. The resources include: video clips, photographs, legal documents, migrant youth essays, timelines, reports, media articles, case studies and statistics. To complement and enhance these resources, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) has also developed a poster and DVD for classroom use. What follows is a suggestion of how best to integrate these teaching tools:

1. Order the poster and DVD from the AFT.
2. Screen the excerpt from *Stolen Childhoods* for your students and initiate a discussion about the problem of child labor in agriculture in the United States.
3. Distribute copies of the Public Policy Paper Outline handout.
4. Have students research the issue in more depth on this Web site and develop their own policy recommendations.
5. Encourage students to share their recommendations with classmates and any other people they want to persuade.

The tools are flexible, and can be used in a variety of other ways as the situation dictates. For instance, if the notion of direct student research online is problematic, teachers can select the resources they find most valuable, print copies and give them to the class as handouts.

Whatever form the research takes, students will build core civic skills and competencies as they investigate this topic. Students will analyze primary resources, apply high-level thinking and reasoning skills to a real social issue, and deepen their understanding of the process and challenges of making public policy. They will also consider the appropriate roles of government, citizens and businesses in protecting America's children.