

Warm-Up: Triangular Shirtwaist Factory



The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in New York City on March 25, 1911, was one of the deadliest industrial disasters in the history of the city of New York and resulted in the fourth highest loss of life from an industrial accident in U.S. history. It is also the second deadliest disaster in New York City after the destruction of the World Trade Center 90 years later. The fire caused the deaths of 146 garment workers, who died from the fire, smoke inhalation, or jumped to their deaths. Many of the workers could not escape the burning building because the managers had locked the doors to the stairwells and exits to prevent theft and the early exit of the workers. After the fire the factory owners were put on trial for manslaughter but were set free after the prosecution couldn't prove they knew about the locked doors.

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1. How many workers died in the Triangle Shirtwaist fire?
 2. Why did the factory owners lock the stairwell doors and limit employee access to the exits?
 3. How will America react to this tragedy? What types of changes will businesses be forced to make?
 4. What type of business was this factory and what was the vocabulary term that described it?

5. Video: How many girls worked on the 8th floor?
6. Video: Name 3 reasons people were trapped?
7. Video: How long did the blaze last?
8. Video: What results were Unions able to gain from this disaster?