Socials Grade 7

Chapter 1 Worksheet

**Pages 15-19**

1. What are human rights?

***Human rights are the rights of every person to be empowered in the ways we have read about: economically, socially, politically, and culturally. They include the right of a person to be a citizen of a nation and have others respect this fact.***

1. What is one group in society that can be easily disempowered? Why?

***Children are often disempowered. The reason is that adults have the authority in almost all situations.***

## *Home Children*

1. Who were the “Home Children”?

#### *In the 1860s to the 1930s approximately 100 000 children from England came to Canada. They came from “homes” in Great Britain. These children were orphans or their parents could not afford to take care of them.*

#### *Trying to Solve a Problem*

1. What was the problem for the people who ran the homes?

*These homes had too many children to care for.*

1. What was the solution for their problem?

*Their solution was to send as many of these children as possible to Canada.*

1. Why did they think sending the children to Canada was a good idea?

It would solve the problem and it would give the children a good life in a country where they had a better chance of getting a job when they became adults.

### What was Supposed to Happen?

1. How old were the Home Children?

These children were usually between seven and fifteen and some were as young as four.

1. The children who were workers would be *indentured*. What did this mean?

Indentured meant that the children would have to stay with the family and work until they were eighteen years old. At the end of the indenture a child would be given a small wage for the years of work.

1. What were the responsibilities of the families taking care of the children?

The family was supposed to make sure that the children went to school for at least a few year. Children were also supposed to be treated fairly and given food, shelter, and clothing.

### What Really Happened

1. How were the children treated in Canada? Explain.

Some were treated good, some were treated bad and some were treated neither badly or well. Some became members of the family and were happy. Others were beaten and not given food or clothing and some even died! Most children got the basics they needed to survive but were not part of the family and not shown love. They worked long days and were not paid and did not get to go to school and make friends. Families were often split up as well and lost touch with their brothers and sisters.

### Why Couldn’t Home Children Do More to Help Themselves?

1. How were the Home Children disempowered? Explain.

They were disempowered as it was very difficult for them to speak up for themselves. At that time people believed that children did not have a right to say in what would happen in their lives. They didn’t get a choice in the families they joined. They also never got a chance to see anyone who could help them. If they complained they were often not believed. Many thought these children were lazy and liars and deserved their punishments. Sometimes they were moved to a different home.

### Ideas Change

1. Why did the Home Children program end in 1939?

The program ended partly because Canada was going through bad economic times so farmers couldn’t even afford to take in Home Children as helpers. As well people started to believe that it was wrong to take children from their families and that children needed a chance to grow up and enjoy being a child. People changed society.