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### 30 days on minimum wage worksheet answers

The Industrial Revolution was both a blessing and a curse. It was a boon to the bank accounts of wealthy industrialists, but a curse for poor, unskilled workers who enslaved away in dangerous factory jobs for inhumane long hours and low pay. In early 19th-century Britain, it was not uncommon for a factory worker only eight or nine years old to receive a 14-hour day's work and a brutal beating for inertia or falling asleep at the machines. All this for a penny an hour. Ad It took almost a century for the cries of women, children and other abused factory workers to reach the ears of politicians. In the 1890s, Australia and New Zealand were the first countries to enact minimum wage laws. In 1909, Britain passed the Trade Boards Act, which included provisions for negotiating fair wages in many industries. In the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt pushed through minimum wage and worker rights legislation in 1938 as part of his New Deal reforms. These laws were the first to establish the basic working conditions that most modern workers take for granted: the eight-hour working day, overtime, the minimum age for work and the minimum wage or minimum wage, as it is commonly called. A century after those early reforms, some critics argue that the minimum wage is still unfairly low. Others say the minimum wage is actually to blame for economic problems such as inflation, high prices and even unemployment. Read on to learn more about who qualifies for minimum wage, how different countries enforce minimum wage laws, and some arguments for and against the minimum wage. The minimum wage is a hot-button issue for politicians and economists. Every time an amendment comes before the U.S. Congress to raise the minimum wage, advocates and critics draw some compelling arguments to win over public opinion. The most common argument in support of the minimum wage is that it protects workers on the lowest rung of the socio-economic ladder. These workers, many of whom represent marginalised groups (women, minorities, youth workers, the disabled, etc.), simply do not have the bargaining power to fight for a minimum wage without government intervention. Ad Many advocates of the minimum wage argue that not only is the minimum wage necessary, but that it is too low. Here are some of the statistics they use to support an increase in the minimum wage: In the United States, the minimum wage is still 31 percent lower than the average hourly wage of a non-supervisory worker. you adjust the minimum wage for inflation, the true value of the current rate is the lowest since 1952 [source: Economic Policy Institute]. The annual wage of a full-time minimum wage worker (40 hours per week) is \$15,080 before taxes. Opponents of the minimum wage argue that a fixed minimum wage actually harms the same employees who vow to protect it. The minimum wage, they say, is an artificial, government-imposed value for an individual worker. The true value of an employee must be determined in the open market. For example, if a young worker applies for his first job as a plant engineer, the factory owner knows that the employee will not produce as many widgets as a more experienced worker. For the factory owner, this worker will clearly bring in less money. That's why he deserves a lower hourly wage. Opponents of the minimum wage argue that if the factory owner is forced to pay that young worker an artificially high minimum wage, then he will choose not to hire the worker because it makes no financial sense. So, in this scenario, instead of working for less than the minimum wage until he gains more experience, the young worker is now unemployed [source: Kibbe]. Economists on both sides of the issue hold study after study showing that the minimum wage does or does not contribute to an increase in unemployment, so that the problem remains unresolved. Another argument against the minimum wage is that it contributes to inflation. Here's how it works: If a manufacturer is suddenly forced to pay its employees \$7.25 an hour instead of \$6.55 an hour, he must raise the price of his product to recoup the cost. This is called cost-push inflation and some economists believe that raising the minimum wage is one of the worst culprits. Other critics say that so-called full-time minimum wage workers don't really exist. Instead, they argue, most minimum wage workers provide second or third sources of income to a household and are often middle-class children working summer jobs. According to US Census Statistics, the average annual salary of a family with a minimum wage worker was \$43,000 in 2006 [source: Blake]. Some minimum wage reformers say that tax credits for low-income workers are far more effective than minimum wage laws. The logic is that under current minimum wage laws, the only person who has the financial burden of fighting poverty is the entrepreneur who has to pay his workers minimum wage [source: Landsburg]. If low-wage workers are supported through tax cuts and rebates, all taxpayers can share the financial burden. For much more on inflation, interest rates and other key economic principles, follow the links below. Related HowStuffWorks Articles Sources Blake, Whitney. The mythology of minimum wage. The weekly standard. August 16, 2006. (May 7) Policy Institute. Hundreds of economists say: Raise the minimum wage. (2 May 2009) Commission. Germany: Working conditions. (May 2, 2009) Jonathan. Fair Labour Labour Law of 1938: Maximum fight for a minimum wage. U.S. Department of Labor. (May 2, 2009) Frank; Michael Sauga; Stefan Simons. In the debate on minimum wage, Germany should look abroad. Der Spiegel. January 25, 2008. (May 7, 2009) 530768-2,00.htmlKibbe, Matthew B. 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(May 2, 2009) It is difficult to give a potential employer your acceptable minimum salary. You don't want to price yourself out of the running, nor do you want such a low number that the company thinks you don't appreciate your skills and qualifications enough to demand a higher salary. Either way, there are ways to answer the question, short of providing an accurate number. Author Ruth Mayhew has been writing about it since the mid-1980s, and she has been an HR specialist since 1995. Her work appears in The Multi-Generational Workforce in the Health Care Industry, and she has been cited in numerous publications, including journals and textbooks that focus on human resources management practices. She holds a Master of Arts in Sociology at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Ruth lives in the nation's capital, Washington, D.C. Receptionists greet and assist customers, vendors and other visitors, and support office and administrative staff. The tasks of a differences by company and industry, but usually include inbound call management, information retrieval and building access control and appointment planning. As support staff, receptionists usually help prepare, create, update and distribute documents, administrations and correspondence. The minimum wage for this position varies across the country, based on the value that different employers place on this type of work and other factors. The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Bureau places receptionists and information workers in the same profession for reporting wages. The BLS excludes certain functions that sometimes overlap with these functions related to tasks, such as secretaries, administrative assistants, switchboard operators, and response service personnel. As of May 2012, the minimum wage nationwide for receptionists and information clerks was about \$8.71 an hour or less. The top 10 percent of these workers earned \$18.16 an hour or more. Across the country, this group earned on average about \$12.49 an hour or \$25,990 per year. The minimum wage earned by receptionists nationwide varies between states and metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas. For example, receptionists who worked 2,080 hours a year in non-metropolitan East Georgia area earned an estimated \$7.92 an hour or less, while their counterparts in the Atlanta/Sandy Springs/Marietta area earned about \$8.56 an hour or less. In the Gulf Coast Texas non-metropolitan area, receptionists earned an estimated \$7.95 an hour or less, while receptionists in the non-metropolitan areas of Hawaii, Maui and Kauai earned \$10.67 an hour or less. In addition to regional differences, entry-level workers typically make the minimum wage or less. Those with previous experience, industry-specific knowledge or formal office training courses are typically higher than the minimum. In addition, companies in certain industries pay more. For example, receptionists in the scientific, governmental, distribution and transportation industries earned between \$16.36 and \$25.92 an hour, on average. Of the five industries that employed the most receptionists - health and scientific industries - hourly wages on average were well above the minimum between \$10.42 and \$15.07 per hour. According to the Occupational Employment Projections to 2020 report, the profession made up of receptionists and information staff will experience growth of 23.7 percent between 2010 and 2020. In terms of new jobs numbers, this percentage means that employers are likely to add an additional 248,500 jobs to the estimated 1.04 million receptionist and information clerk positions reported for 2010. About the author based in Southern Pennsylvania, Irene A. Blake has been writing about a wide range of topics for over a decade. Her work is projects of The National Network for Artist Placement, the-phone-book Limited and GateHouse Media. She has a one doctor in English from Shippensburg University. University.