Adolescence: A Time of Many Changes

“Family Feud” Activity
Observations of Florence Kelley, an early activist to end child labor:

In 1871, William Kelley took his twelve-year-old daughter Florence on a tour of a western Pennsylvania steel mill and glass factory so she would appreciate the wonders of America’s new industrial age...

But Florence was shocked more than impressed. Touring the steel mill at two in the morning, she witnessed the ‘terrifying sight’ of ‘boys smaller than myself...’ carrying heavy pails of drinking water for the men... Visiting the glass factory at night a few weeks later, she observed that a glassblower stood in front of each furnace. Near each blower were the ‘dogs,’ as the boys were called, whose job it was to clean and scrape bottle molds, a tedious and dangerous task in the dark and hot factory. (Dreier, 2012, p. 44)
100-150 Years Ago: School Ends at Young Age, Many Go Straight to Work

- In St. Louis: “Children began to drop out around age twelve, so that by age sixteen less than 20 percent were still enrolled. Moreover, those who discontinued their education began their vocational careers immediately, with the exception of some girls who returned to... the home” (p. 240)
- Common occupations for youth included: “cigar makers, messengers, cash boys or cash girls [running errands for cashiers, sales clerks, etc.], delivery boys, stock clerks, wrappers, markers, inspectors, and the like” (p. 241)
- In late 1800s/early 1900s, in big cities, department stores were a common workplace for 12-16 year-olds.
- Development of more sophisticated machines (e.g., typewriters, adding machines) led to reduced youth employment in many fields by around 1900.
- In 1918, a key educational organization “was ready to recommend that in addition to the usual literary courses, there should be agricultural, business, clerical, industrial, fine arts, and household curricula” (p. 247).


School Attendance Trends (Ages 14-17)

Arnett & Taber (1994) article (See Table 1)
Dan Siegel’s

**ESSENCE Model of Adolescence**

Ties together the brain, emotions, peers, parents, and risk-taking

[YouTube video](#)
“Ya Got Trouble” (from The Music Man), illustrating common negative attitudes toward adolescents

Vox “Today’s teens...” Comparisons

“Up” Series

Filmmaker began by interviewing small group of British children at age 7 (movie “7 Up”) and has re-interviewed the same people at ages 14 (titled “7+7”), 21, 28, 35, 42, 49, and 56 (so far) and made a new movie each time!

We’ll watch segments from ages 14 and 21 as time permits.