

New Jersey Women's History

Middle School Lesson Plan

Working Women in New Jersey Industry, 20<sup>th</sup> Century: The Western Electric Kearny Works

<b>Working Women in New Jersey Industry, 20th Century: The Western Electric Kearny Works</b>	
<b>Grade Level</b>	Middle School
<b>Core Unit of Study</b>	Twentieth Century
<b>NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards</b>	Standard No: 6.1, 6.3 & 6.6 Indicator: 5 &13 <a href="#">New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards Website</a>
<b>Objectives</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Students will engage with photographic images as primary source material.</li><li>2. Students will learn how to assess images critically in the context of New Jersey Women's history.</li><li>3. Students will gain a greater appreciation for many types of primary sources that help craft the historical narrative and will be able to gauge the significance of photographic images to this process.</li></ol>
<b>Materials</b>	3 photos from Western Electric of women working; <b><i>photos can be viewed in the printable PDF file of this lesson.</i></b>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Procedures</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The students will read the background piece on Western Electric and women working in electrical manufacturing, available at the NJWH website.</li> <li>2. The students will access the four Western Electric images at the NJWH website and assess them critically within the context of NJ women's history of work.</li> <li>3. Students will answer the set of questions available on the NJWH website or apply the images to a creative project/research paper assigned by the instructor.</li> </ol>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Assessment of Student Performance</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Web access can be verified.</li> <li>2. A class discussion about the photos and the history of NJ women and work.</li> <li>3. A project, presentation, or research paper.</li> </ol>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Bibliography</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Stephen Adams and Orville Butler, <i>Manufacturing the Future: A History of Western Electric</i> (1999)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ruth Milkman, <i>Gender at Work: The Dynamics of Job Segregation by Sex during World War II</i> (1987)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Alice Kessler-Harris, <i>Out to Work: A History of Wage-Earning Women in the United States</i> (1982)</p>