

✓ Question [2]

What's the image's date, title, and creator? 1908, *Boardwalk, Atlantic City, N.J.*, Unknown

Guess what type of person might have created this image and for what purpose. This may have been taken by someone on vacation to better remember the trip they took to Atlantic City. Maybe a hotel or refreshment stand operator took the photograph to use in an advertisement. Maybe someone from a "tourism bureau" or similar organization took this picture to place in a brochure to promote the location.

Guess...Was it personal or published? Candid or posed? Is it amateur or professional? Personal, candid (no one is looking or waving to the camera), and amateur (seems rather random and unbalanced). The height from which the photograph is taken suggests that the photographer had access to a type of platform or balcony.

Also new to this era was the *bicycle* (it caused a "bike boom" in the 1890s) and the similar wheeled, or rolling, chair as seen in the photograph. Hardware store owner William Hayday thought to push *rolling chairs* down the Atlantic City Boardwalk; today pushers charge about \$5 a ride. [8] The refreshment stand (right) reads: Root Beer and Ginger Ale; The large building in background (on the left) reads: Young's Million Dollar Pier (appears backwards); Other, more-difficult-to-see buildings and signs read: Hippodrome (a theatre), Bowling, Photographs, and HELMAR Cigarettes (Turkish and Egyptian tobacco).

While African-Americans and whites are pictured here walking along the boardwalk together, 1908 is amid the *Jim Crow Era in America* when many cities and states, especially in the south, passed harsh segregation laws and ordinances (e.g., making illegal interracial marriage, dining, transportation, and other social acts involving African-Americans and whites together). Black workers made about 1/3 of the earnings of white workers and were mostly kept out of the trade union movement (unions were almost all-male and all-white). [4] *W.E.B. Du Bois* gathered influential African-Americans at Niagara Falls, New York (1897) to push for voting rights and to end racial discrimination: this was the *Niagara Movement* and eventually they formed (in 1910) the *National Association of the Advancement of Colored People*. Their goal was to make African-Americans "physically free from [servitude], mentally free from ignorance, politically free from disenfranchisement, and socially free from insult." [5]

In about one sentence, state the image's overall message. The second industrial revolution led to the *spread of modern technologies*: telegraph, telephone, electricity; the *development* of skyscrapers, better bridges and railroads; and *increased leisure time* for sports, amusement parks, and vacations.

Citations: [#] throughout the primer: 1. Unknown. (1908). *Boardwalk, Atlantic City, N.J.* (photograph). Detroit Publishing Co., Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, Washington, D.C., see <https://www.loc.gov/resource/det.4a22480/> 2. Informed by the Library of Congress's "Teacher's Guides and Analysis Tools" webpage found: <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/guides.html>, and Wineburg, S. (1991). Historical problem solving: A study of the cognitive processes used in the evaluation of documentary and pictorial evidence *Journal of Educational Psychology*, 83, 73-87. 3. <http://www.worldsteel.org/steelstory>, & Birch, A. (2006). *Economic History of the British Iron and Steel Industry*. Routledge. 4. Zinn, H. (2014). *A people's history of the United States*. Pan Macmillan. 5. Bower, B., & Lobdell, J. (2002). *History Alive!: The United States*. Teachers' Curriculum Institute 6. <http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6645> 7. <http://www.britannica.com/technology/history-of-technology/The-Industrial-Revolution-1750-1900> 8. http://articles.philly.com/1987-06-11/news/26185345_1_chairs-boardwalk-noreen-bodman

The typical work week was about *60 hours*, which was down from 70+ in the 1860s. By the 20th century, 10 more hours of average working time turned into *leisure time*. With some disposable income and free time many Americans sought new entertainments: *amusement parks* and *resorts* like Atlantic City, N.J. emerged. Innovation created mechanical rides, such as the steam-powered *carousel* and George *Ferris's Wheel*. Entertainment served as source of fantasy and escape from real life. By the early 1900s, hundreds of amusement parks were operating in North America. [6]

✓ Observe

Unknown. (1908). *Boardwalk, Atlantic City, N.J.*, Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, Washington, D.C. [1]



This era saw widespread adoption of *new and pre-existing technologies* such as telephone and electricity (clearly seen in the photograph), the use of petroleum/kerosene/diesel/gasoline/oil for internal-combustion engines, and advanced civil engineering (water supply and sewage systems) which had earlier been known to few cities. [7]

Major developments in *steel production* (i.e., the Bessemer Process) during the late-19th century revolutionized city planning. Steel cost much less and took less time to forge than most types of iron; it was stronger, too. The availability of cheap steel led to the construction of *skyscrapers, suspension bridges, and ocean liners* [3]. These inventions combined with the telegraph, the telephone, and electricity to afford increased movement of both people and ideas.

✓ Reflect

How does this image compare with other evidence? Historical photographs often depict industrialization (e.g., textile factories, urbanization) and illustrate the affects of working and living conditions on the lives of the poor and the working class. This photograph suggests the product of workers—like those in Pennsylvania (breaker boys), Massachusetts (spinners), Indiana (glassworkers)—made it possible for technology to spread throughout the nation. Those who support the second industrial revolution would use this image as evidence that people during the era had leisure time and took vacations to resort locations in their free time.

Why might other evidence (messages and data) agree or disagree with this image? This image portrays a very small portion of life for a very small percentage of people during the second industrial revolution. Other texts and images may portray the harsh and challenging working and living conditions. The purpose of this photograph may have been to promote Atlantic City, N.J. as a tourist destination, while other photographs—like many from Lewis Hine, Jacob Riis—were intended to shock citizens into acting to protect the workers, especially women, children, and immigrants.

What else do you need or want to know about this image? How was this image used? Are the people in the photograph on vacation from jobs where they worked in harsh conditions?