Educator Resources Reserve an Education Kit

**For school groups visiting (following CDC guidelines for safety) Louisiana’s Old State Capitol to see the exhibition in person:**

Teachers may request an education kit from Louisiana’s Old State Capitol to use before or after visiting the Jacob A. Riis exhibition to facilitate student/teacher engagement of exhibition content through hands-on activities or lesson ideas inspired by the exhibition.

**To reserve the kit for your classroom:** Just e-mail Educator Caroline Kennedy at Louisiana’s Old State Capitol at [ckennedy@sos.la.gov](mailto:ckennedy@sos.la.gov) to reserve the kit. The kit is available free-of-charge on a first-come/first-serve basis to schools within a 60 mile radius of Baton Rouge. This kit was designed for grades five and up with hands-on activities that can be adapted for various audiences. The kit must be returned within 10 days.

**Contents include:**

* Vintage spool of thread
* Wooden clothespins
* Clothesline
* Shoeshine brush
* Ragpicker’s sack
* Images of miner’s headlamp and oyster shucker’s knife
* Teddy bear
* Magic lantern slide
* Dice
* Paperback copy of *How the Other Half Lives*
* Many discussion and activity cards

The education kit explores some of the communication media that Jacob Riis used to crusade for social change, and it uses primary sources from Riis’s work to help young people today imagine the life of a poor child in the Lower East Side tenements of New York at the turn of the twentieth century. There are three main sections, each distinguished by cards with a different color scheme:

* **Media for Social Change** includes an Introduction card, 2 Touchable Objects, and 3 Exhibition Content Discussion Cards. (To extend exploration of this theme, a related lesson plan, “Media for Social Change: Then & Now,” has been published in this Programming Guide.)
* **Children of the Poor at Work** features an Introduction card, 3 Exhibition Content Discussion Cards, and 3 Hands-On Activities. One activity, “Tools of the Trade,” consists of 6 Touchable Objects and 6 two-sided Occupation Profile Cards.
* **Children of the Poor at Play** contains an Introduction card, 1 Touchable Object, 1 Exhibition Content Discussion Card, and 2 Hands-On Activities. One activity, “Children at Play: Then & Now,” features 4 two-sided Recreation Cards and a Student Worksheet.