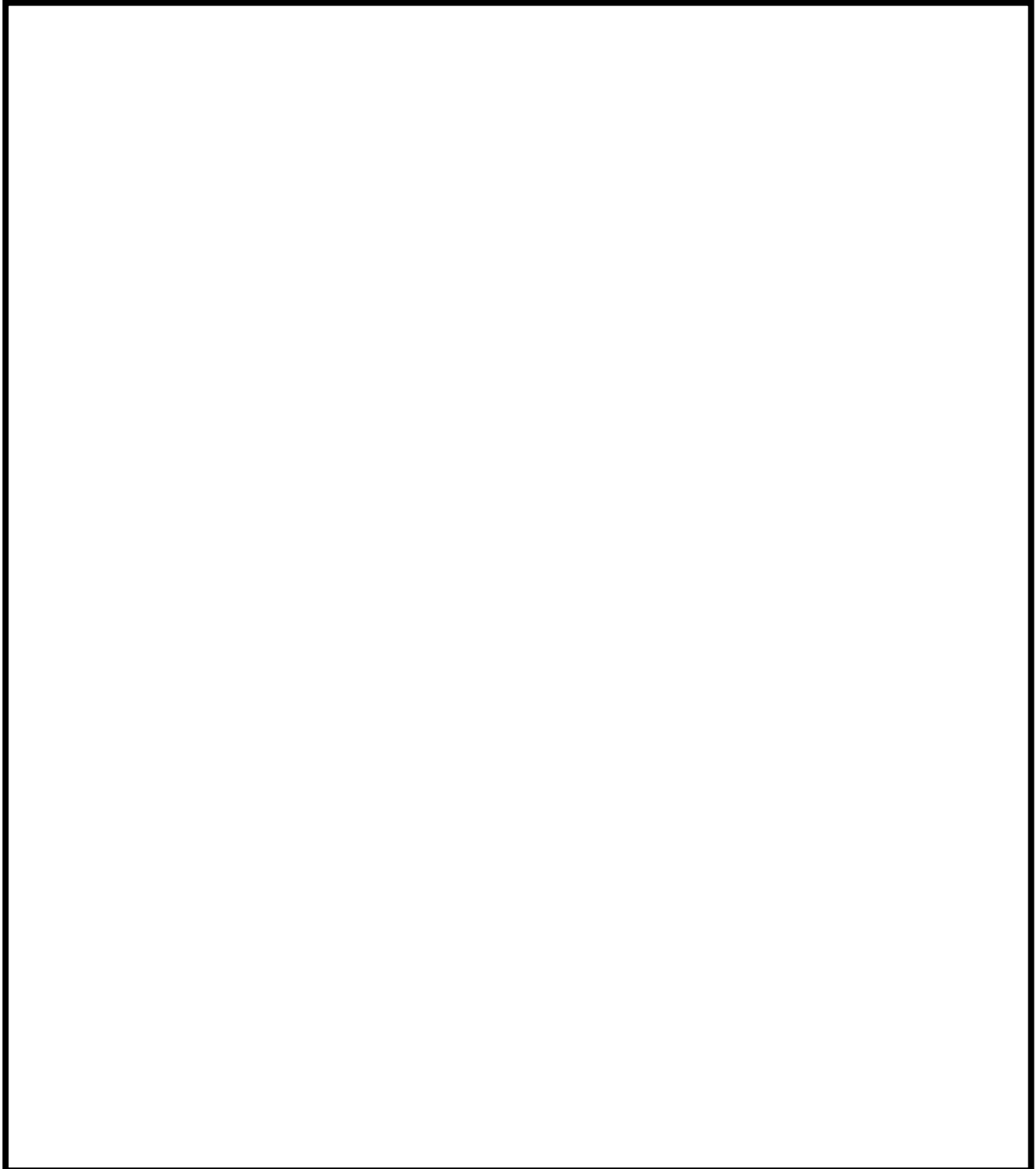


SECTION TWO: CHOCOLATE BITTER FOR CHILD LABOUR - COMPREHENSION

1. Create a graphic organizer (web graph, T-Chart, mind or concept map, etc.) to summarize the Main Points and supporting details of this article. Use your own words.

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for the student to create a graphic organizer summarizing the article's main points and supporting details.

SECTION FOUR: ANALYZING A POLITICAL CARTOON AND A HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPH

The following cartoon and historic photograph deal with a common issue. In your response, you should address the following:

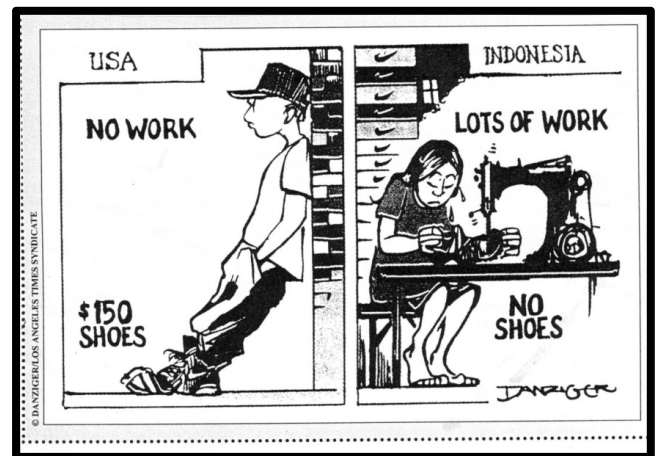
- **What is the issue?**
- **Compare and contrast** the cartoon and the photo and discuss how the issue has changed (or not) over time.
- **How have people reacted to this issue** (or not) over time?

While writing on this subject, refer frequently to the two images to support your ideas. Your analysis will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

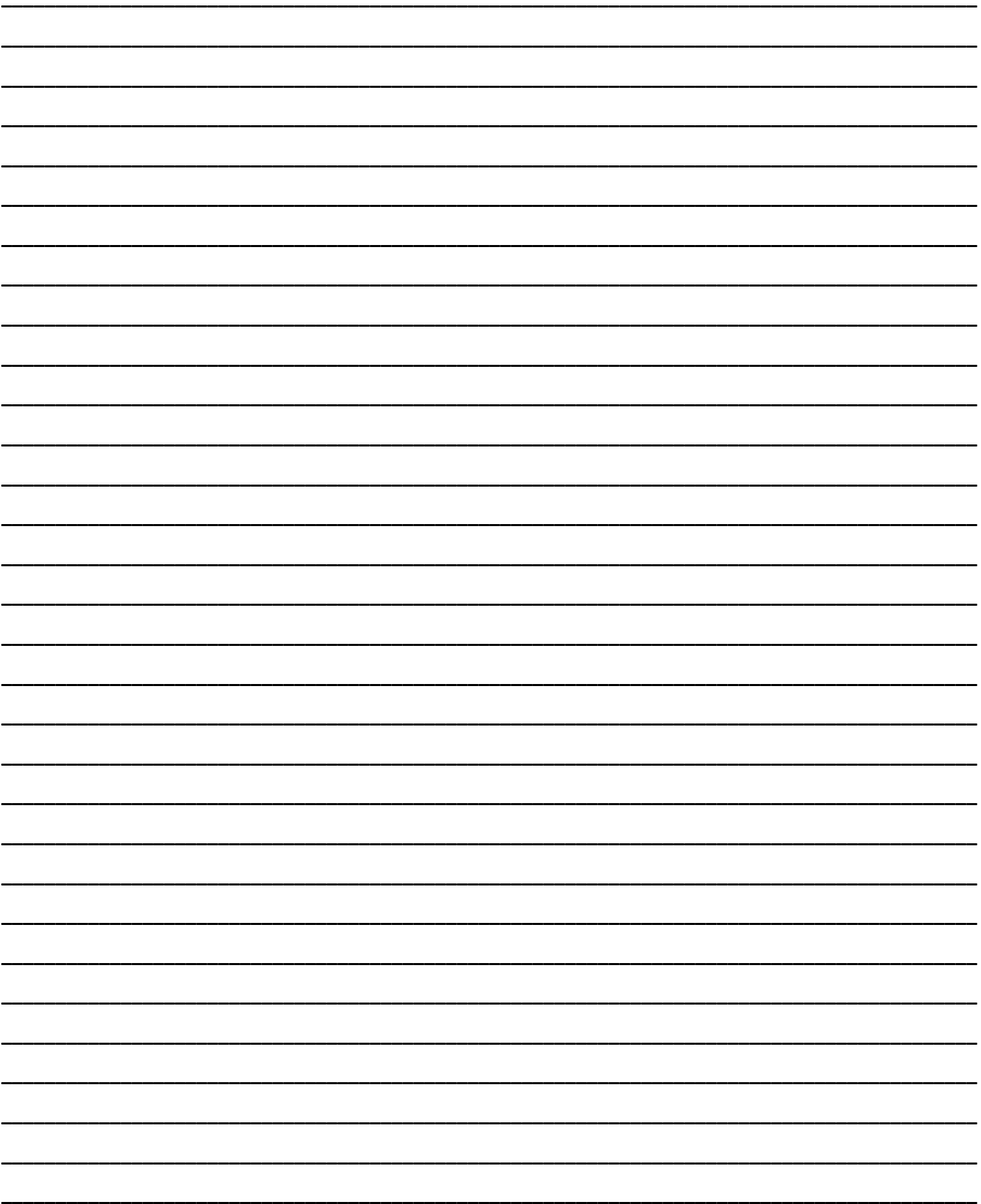
- **Identify** the main issue/theme present in both documents
- Accurately **analyze** similarities and differences between the two images
- Accurately and thoughtfully **identify connections** between these images and the reading “Chocolate Bitter for Child Labour”
- Write a thoughtful **conclusion**



Historic photo (from 1911) of “Breaker Boys” at the end of their shift working in a coal mine in South Pittston, Pennsylvania.



Political Cartoon (from 2010) that appeared in the Los Angeles Times newspaper.



Chocolate Bitter For Child Labour



A young boy rakes cocoa beans on a drying rack in West Africa.

Chocolate Bitter for Child Labour

WEST AFRICA. Some 300,000 children -- six times the number in Vancouver's schools -- work under intolerable conditions on cocoa farms

Mia Stainsby

Vancouver Sun

Saturday, March 24, 2007

When Forrest Gump said that life was like a box of chocolates, he probably wasn't thinking of West Africa, where some 312,000 children are working on cocoa farms under **intolerable** conditions.

The vast majority of these cocoa farms are in West Africa, which supplies 70 per cent of the world's cocoa. This includes the countries of Nigeria, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire and Cameroon. About one million child labourers -- almost two-thirds of them under 14 years of age -- work on cocoa farms in the region, accounting for about 15 per cent of global cocoa production.

More significantly, about three per cent of the world's cocoa production is done under the worst forms of child labour, says the **United Nations**. That percentage might seem small, but it represents a few hundred thousand children, or about six times the number of children in the Vancouver school system.

Save The Children Canada believes the Canadian government needs to do more. So last month it posted a 27-country online petition, calling on the Canadian government to monitor and report on the worst forms of child labour, and on what's being done to remove children from these situations. The petition also called for the government to track the source of chocolate coming into Canada.

According to Sue Rooks, of Save the Children, research tells us that the number of children **trafficked** into West Africa is on the increase, so we feel the problem is more serious than ever. In these areas, parents are used to the idea of children working.

Many children have to work in these rural farms to meet their family's basic needs. However, we want to ensure they're fairly paid, have schooling, safe working conditions, reasonable work hours and parents to nurture them.

Rooks says child labour problems are only getting worse in West Africa. "Child labour has become so cheap, we have people moving in who are not looking after children like they used to. The incidence of trafficking is on the rise because of pressures on the farmer." In the worst cases, Rook says, children are trafficked and sold to farmers to labour under back-breaking, sometimes abusive conditions. The parents may sell the children, or the youngsters may be lured with sugar-coated promises of money and good jobs.

In the cocoa fields of West Africa, children **wield** machetes to cut open cocoa pods, apply dangerous pesticides without protection and carry heavy bags of cocoa up steep slopes over long distances to warehouses in towns.

John Rowsome, president of the Toronto-based **Confectionary** Manufacturers Association of Canada, says the chocolate industry is dedicating to eliminating the worst forms of child labour on cocoa farms in West Africa by 2008. The industry is working with a number of West African governments to develop certification programs and is developing educational and social programs to increase incomes and educate farmers.

"It's clearly a long-term commitment because these practices and attitudes have been around for a long time. We're dealing with two million farms in some of the most **remote** areas of Africa."

Vancouver's biggest chocolate company, Purdy's, is a member of the World Cocoa Foundation, who are working to advance **sustainable** programs for cocoa farmers.

"Customers are very aware of the situation, and more and more, they have questions," says Purdy's marketing manager Neena Arora. She added that "Purdy's chooses to be responsible and donates significantly to the World Cocoa Foundation," though she would not reveal the amount.

Save the Children Canada is anxious for the Canadian government to take a leadership role. "There's been talk, there have been meetings, there have been small initiatives but nothing as yet is in place for certification or for who's going to be doing the checking. We want more action. It's important to keep pressure up."

Ultimately, it is the 250 million children between the ages of 5 and 14 working in these developing countries who are suffering and paying the price for the world's chocolate obsession.

© Adapted from The Vancouver Sun March 24, 2007