



## Questions for Discussion

1. By today's standards, some of these outfit pieces seem inexpensive, but that is not the case in the 1910s. How long did the average young woman have to work to afford a \$10 dress while also paying her expenses?
2. If a woman could only afford one suit, dress or jacket, how do you think she would mend her outfit? Would she buy a new one?
3. How much do you spend on an everyday outfit? A coat? A dress or suit?

## COST OF LIVING AND FASHION OF WORKING WOMEN IN THE 1910s QUESTIONS & ACTIVITIES



## SHOPPING IN THE 1910S

### A Working Girl

In the 1900s, factories employed thousands of young women across the United States. Women sewed pieces of clothing in many of these factories. The rise of ready-to-wear fashion made these new jobs possible.

### Salary for a Hard Day's Work

Despite working long hours, most young women earned about \$6/week in 1911.

### Spending Money

Clothing was not the only expense that young women had.

If a young woman lived on her own, she had to pay rent, which was usually for a room in a house. Even if she still lived at home with her parents, it was not uncommon that some, if not most, of her salary went to the family economy.



### COATS

New York gets cold! A coat is a staple for everyone, especially in the winter.

Which coat would your working girl wear on her walk to work?



## HATS & ACCESSORIES

Who doesn't love a nice accessory? Wide-brim hats were a great choice to complete any outfit.

Which hat will you choose? Don't forget: your girl might want matching gloves. And shoes! Will your girl forego the nice touch of accessories or treat herself to a beautiful hat to complete her outfit?

## RECURRING EXPENSES

### Salary: \$6/week

#### Regular Expenses

Food.....\$2.00/week

Rent/Expenses.....\$2.50/week

#### Entertainment

Nickelodeons.....\$0.10/week

Dance Halls.....\$1.00/week

**Anticipated Weekly Leftover: \$0.40**



**Nemo**  
TRIPLE-STRIP

**CORSET SPECIALTIES**

**No. 321**  
SELF-REDUCING  
\$3.00

**No. 523** \$5.00  
WITH  
LASTIKOPS BANDLET  
TALL STOUT SHORT STOUT  
**No. 408** \$4.00

**No. 405** \$4.00  
WITH  
RELIEF BANDS  
TALL STOUT

**No. 505** \$5.00

**Nemo**  
TRIPLE-STRIP

**LASTIKOPS CORSET**  
No. 330 - \$3.00

**SELF-REDUCING SYSTEM**

**LASTIKOPS CORSET**

### CORSETS

In 1911, most corsets were front-fastening and had long lacing cords that women could adjust, making getting dressed a snap!

Which corset is the right one for your girl?

**KI-8401**  
\$10.00

**KI-8400**  
\$5.00

**KI-30785**  
\$5.00

**KI-30784**  
\$5.00

**KI-30781**  
\$5.00

**KI-30783**  
\$5.00

### SKIRTS

Hobble skirts and walking skirts, like those pictured above, were common alternatives to dresses. Hobble skirts were tighter around the ankle, whereas walking skirts provided more movement.

So many options! Most of the skirts are \$5, but will you choose the \$10 skirt for your girl?





## WAISTS

Shirtwaists are what are today referred to as blouses. Button-up fronts and high collars were popular in the 1910s.

As a staple piece in any wardrobe, which waist will you choose?



## UNDERGARMENTS

A corset wasn't the only layer of undergarments women needed. For example a chemise was worn beneath a corset.

Undergarment prices might add up quickly. Which will you choose?