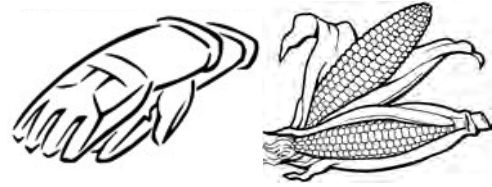


Name:

Risks of working



Jade and Hannah

In July 2011, two middle school girls were killed while working in the cornfields in Illinois. Jade Garza and Hannah Kendall were best friends. They worked together in the fields during the summers. Moving through a field, Jade stepped in a puddle of water. She got a huge jolt of electric power and screamed. Her friend, Hannah, was jolted next, trying to grab Jade. A third girl, Delanie, was knocked out trying to pull her friends to safety. Other teens gave the girls CPR. They were able to save Delanie, but Jade and Hannah were not as lucky.

No other way

The farm where the girls worked was run by the giant company, Monsanto. Young teens, some only 11 or 12, do a lot of the summer work on the farm. It's muddy and hot. Even with gloves, workers' hands get cut up. Adults often turn down jobs in the cornfields. Middle school students will work for the summer, happy to earn \$200 a week and work with their friends. After Jade and Hannah were killed, friends talked about what had happened. One person posted on the Facebook memorial page for Jade and Hannah:

Kidz are out there trying to make money because there is no other way to. This hit me hard. This could have been prevented.

At higher risk

Why are children and teens at higher risk at work?

- Often, teens get less training than older workers receive. Like Jade and Hannah, they may not know about dangers, like water on the ground near electric wires.
- Children and teens often feel that they have to do what adults tell them to do. They may not speak up about something unsafe at work.

Risks of working, continued

Summarize what happened with the two girls using the 5 Ws.

WHO _____

DID WHAT _____

WHEN _____

WHERE _____

WHY _____



Talk to your partner:

What were two good things about working in the cornfields?

1. _____

2. _____

What were two bad things about working in the cornfields?

1. _____

2. _____

According to the article "Risks of working," why are teens at risk when at work?

1. _____

2. _____

Risks of working, continued

What if you lived near cornfields in Illinois? After reading "Risks of working," would you take a summer job in the cornfields? Why or why not?



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