

## Document B

**Source:** Lewis Hine, National Child Labor Committee Report, 1911.

The boys working in the breaker are bent double, with little chance to relax; the air at times is dense with coal-dust, which penetrates so far into the passages of the lungs that for long periods after the boy leaves the breaker, he continues to cough up the black coal dust. Fingers are calloused and cut by the coal and slate, the noise and monotony are deadening.... While I was in the region, two breaker boys of 15 years ... fell or were carried by the coal down into the car below. One was badly burned and the other smothered to death. This was the Lee Breaker at Chauncy, Pennsylvania, January 6th, 1911. The boy who was killed was Dennis McKee.

**Note:** Breaker boys were often located just outside the mine next to a machine (called a breaker) where they sorted and separated the coal from slate rock.

View of the Ewen Breaker, Pennsylvania Coal Company



**Source:** Library of Congress, Prints and Photo Division. Photo by Lewis Hine, 1911.

### Document Analysis

1. What was a breaker boy?
2. How old were the two boys who were injured and killed at the Lee Breaker?
3. What is the main idea of the Lewis Hine report?
4. How does the photograph help support the report's descriptions?