Description: In the late 1800s and early 1900s, factories had no government enforced safety standards. Likewise, there were virtually no child labor laws. Often times, since they would work for less money and could be more easily controlled, factory owners hired children to work in their industrial facilities.

1. What safety hazards do you see in this picture? List at least 3.

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2. What motivated factory owners to use child labor in the late 1800s and early 1900s?

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3. Why would factory owners be unlikely to improve safety in their facilities? Explain.

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ANSWERS:

1. What safety hazards do you see in this picture? List at least 3.
There are many safety hazards in this picture. First, the simple fact that there are children working in the factory is a hazard. Second, the machine's belt is exposed to the right. Third, there are items in the floor that could cause the children to slip. Fourth, the children are climbing on the machines.

2. What motivated factory owners to use child labor in the late 1800s and early 1900s?
Factory owners were motivated to use child labor because children worked for less money and were easier to control than adult employees.

3. Why would factory owners be unlikely to improve safety in their facilities? Explain.
It would cost money to bring in safety features. The government was not forcing the factory owners to pursue higher safety standard. Therefore, it would not be financially practicable to pursue such actions.