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HIS 113: World Civilization

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1) We have learned that wind power, water power and, most of all, muscle power were the means by which jobs were done. How do you see these elements conveyed in this film?

Wind power, water power, and muscle power were means by which jobs were created during the time, elements are all conveyed in this film through several different ways. Wind power was commonly used for things such as power windmills. Windmills were used to grind grains, pump water, and power sawmills, among other things. Water power was used to turn waterwheels and generate mechanical energy. Waterwheels were used to power a wide range of machinery, including sawmills, and other mills. Muscle power was used in a variety of ways to get jobs done. For example, people would use their own strength to carry heavy loads, chop wood, and plow fields. Muscle power can be seen when workers are lifting heavy materials, such as pounds and pounds of rocks and stone. Animals, such as horses and oxen, were also used to provide muscle power to pull plows, haul goods, and transport people.

2) The film is about "worst jobs" - which of these do you consider the "worst of the worst" and why?

I consider the Guinea Mott Egg-collector the worst job simply because of how unsafe it truly was. You are relying on a rope to save your life while holding a bucket, with no safety gear as we would have in today's century, hanging over a cliff trying to find eggs from specific birds that are known to attack if you try and steal their eggs. Workers would leave marked up with severe wounds and scars due to these birds attacking them as they were hanging off the side of the cliff. One of the speakers wouldn't even consider this a job as people needed to do this to survive, for food.