

Name:

Date:

Read the article “Why is Wal-Mart blocking 35 cents an hour for Bangladesh workers?”(<http://www.nlcnet.org/alerts?id=0176>) and then answer the following questions. After you have finished, have a class discussion discussing these questions and the article.

1. A Bangladeshi factory owner quoted, “A few years back, I told Wal-Mart, ‘Give me one cents more a piece, one cents. I will use that money for these poor people.’ He says, ‘No give us two cents less.” How does this quote make you feel? Why do you think the Wal-Mart Corporation wouldn’t give him just a cent more in order to help the poor people? Explain why this is wrong.
2. How many pairs of jeans must the workers sew per hour? How many per minute?
3. If the workers in Bangladesh were paid minimum wage of just 35 cents an hour for entry-level workers, the junior and senior workers would get paid 42-55 cents an hour so they would be able to afford sufficient food, and rent slightly better rooms, school for their children, help parents and even open up bank accounts for emergencies. Why, do you think, these workers haven’t been paid more in order to maintain a stable life?
4. What was the reason that the young women said they would go on strike for?