



## **What was it like to work in a Slaughterhouse??**

Workers did not need much skill to do most meatpacking jobs. Meatpacking plants were some of the first factories to use assembly lines. A worker only had to cut up one part of each animal. Animal bodies were pulled along an overhead rail from worker to worker on the assembly lines. Thousands of animals could be turned into meat every day.

Factory conditions were terrible for the thousands of people that worked at the Union Stock Yards. Workers on the blood-soaked killing floors had to labor in the stink and screams of animals being killed. They worked long hours, ten to twelve hours a day, in heat higher than 100 degrees in the summer. Stockyard owners paid low wages because many immigrants were desperate to survive. The immigrants would take almost any amount of pay, no matter how small.

The factories employed women as packers and children as messengers. They paid women and children much less than they paid men.