

## Watch the Video

Explore topics on the family.



Fathers who lost these jobs found that their new jobs often did not pay as much as their old ones. Many mothers had to go to work in order to help their families meet expenses.

At the same time, the women's movement led many mothers to seek employment after their children had entered school. However, women regularly received lower wages and fewer promotions than men.

In addition, inflation in the 1970s and recession in the 1980s led many families to need additional sources of income to make ends meet. By the late 1900s, the two-earner family had become the norm.

Many sociologists predict that the technological revolution will bring even more changes to the family. The growing practice of telecommuting—working at home using a computer—may make the home a major center of economic activity once again.



Today, most paying work takes place outside the home. Families spend much time away from each other.

## What do you think?

1. How did industrialization change the institution of the family?
2. How might future technological advances change the family?

# CHAPTER 11

# THE FAMILY

## Chapter at a Glance

### SECTION 1: Family Systems and Functions

- Families throughout the world follow similar patterns.
- Family organization is determined by how societies answer questions of authority and relationships.
- The family's most important functions include reproduction, socialization, and economic security.

### SECTION 2: Families in the United States

- Most families in the United States begin with courtship followed by marriage.
- The way families in the United States handle responsibilities has changed.
- Violence within families remains one of the leading forms of disruption.
- Many marriages end in divorce, which also disrupts families.
- Families face other disruptions later in life.

### SECTION 3: Recent Trends in Marriage and Family

- People have begun to delay getting married for economic reasons.
- Some women choose to postpone having children so that they can pursue their careers.
- Many married couples choose to never have children.
- In most American families, both the mother and the father work.
- About a quarter of families in the United States are led by a single parent.
- Many divorced people get remarried, and new families are formed as a result.