

Test Format: 25 Multiple Choice.

Test Date

Define the following terms:

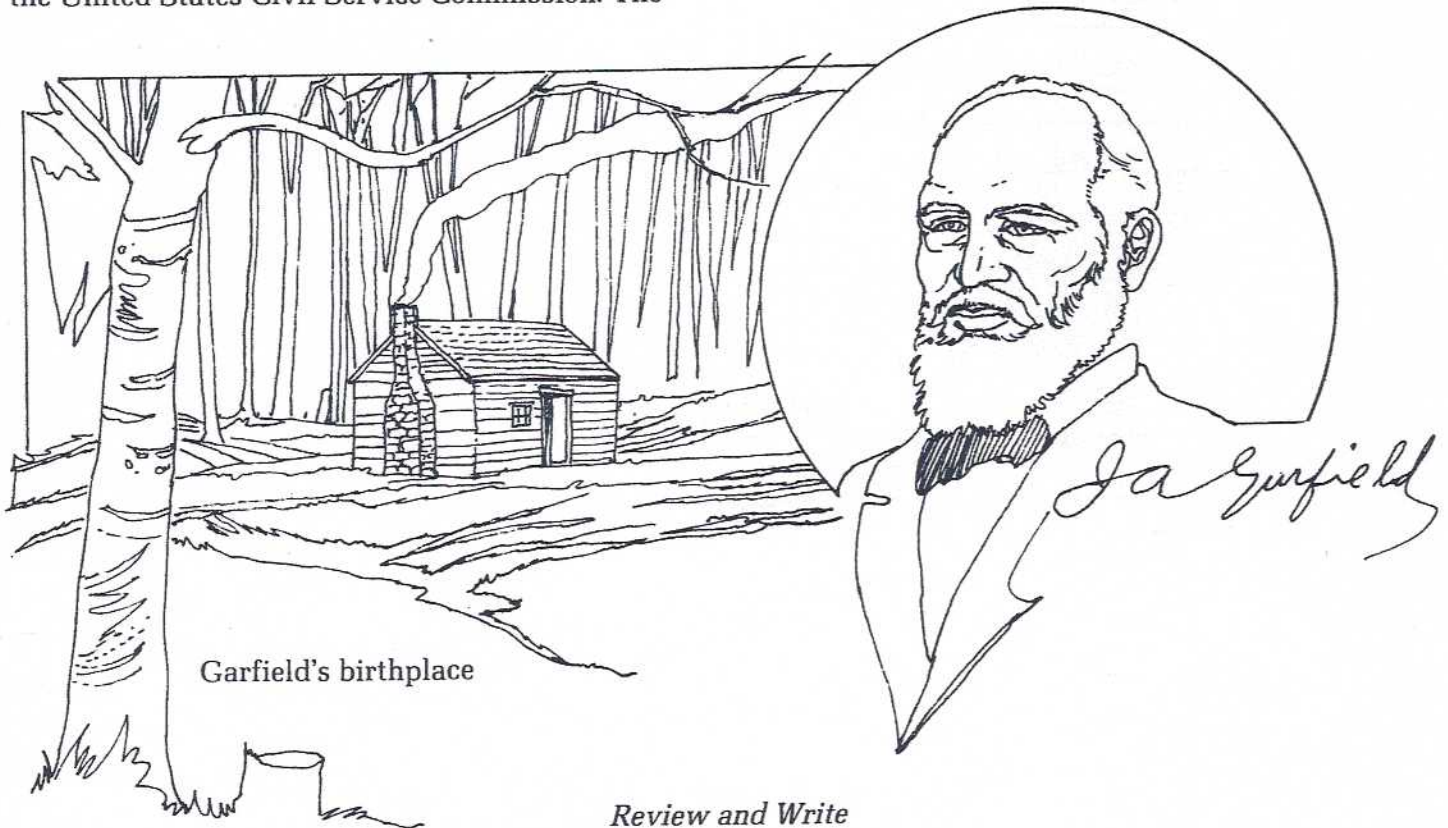
- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1)Gilded Age-def., who created it | 2)James Garfield |
| 3)The Whiskey Ring | 4)Chester Arthur |
| 5)Grover Cleveland | 6)Benjamin Harrison |
| 7)William McKinley | 8)Theodore Roosevelt |
| 9)William Taft | 10)Woodrow Wilson |
| 11)Pendleton Act | 12)Interstate Commerce Act |
| 13)Sherman Anti-Trust Act | 14)The Mugwumps |
| 15)Tweed Ring | 16)The Progressives |
| 17)The Populists | 18)The Wisconsin Idea |
| 19)Referendum | 20)Recall |
| 21)Initiative | 22)Australian Ballot |
| 23)Direct Primary | 24)16 th Amendment |
| 25)17 th Amendment | 26)18 th Amendment |
| 27)19 th Amendment | 28)The Muckrakers |
| 29)Ida Tarbell | 30)Upton Sinclair |
| 31)John Muir | 32)The Square Deal |
| 33)Election of 1912- main candidates, winner | 34)Federal Trade Commission |
| 35)Clayton Anti-Trust Act | 36)Carrie Chapman Catt |
| 37)The Bull Moose Party | 38)Alice Paul |
| 39)Frances Willard | 40)Gifford Pinchot |
| 41)The New Freedom | 42)Booker T. Washington |
| 43)W.E.B. Du Bois | 44)Anti-Defamation League |
| 45)Federal Reserve Act | 46)Chinese Exclusion Act |

The Civil Service Act of 1883

In the late 1820s, President Andrew Jackson had introduced the "spoils system," whereby an elected leader could replace government workers with members of his own party. Several decades later, it was apparent that this political favoritism had filled Washington with ill-trained, inadequate, and even dishonest federal workers. By mid-century, examinations for clerks had been established. The early 1870s saw power given to the presidency to establish more regulations, and then saw the failure of these regulations due to lack of funds to enforce the new rules.

Ultimately, a national tragedy dramatized the need to undertake reforms seriously. In 1881, a disgruntled office seeker shot and killed President Garfield. Senator George H. Pendleton of Ohio then sponsored a bill which led to the development of the United States Civil Service Commission. The

Civil Service Act of 1883 provided for examinations for civil service jobs. The examinations were to be open to all citizens. Workers were to be selected from those with the highest test scores. In addition, workers could no longer be hired or fired for political reasons. No longer could government workers be expected to contribute time or money to political campaigns. In the beginning, only about one-tenth of the government positions were covered by the act, but slowly, more jobs came under the coverage. Benefits increased and jobs were classified by the nature of the tasks. With the privileges came abuses, as it became increasingly difficult to fire workers. It wasn't until 1978 that the Civil Service Reform Act was passed. This provided ways for managers to fire inefficient personnel and to reward others for superior work.



Review and Write

1. What advantages do you think the "spoils system" had over the merit system? _____

2. Why was the merit system a good idea? _____

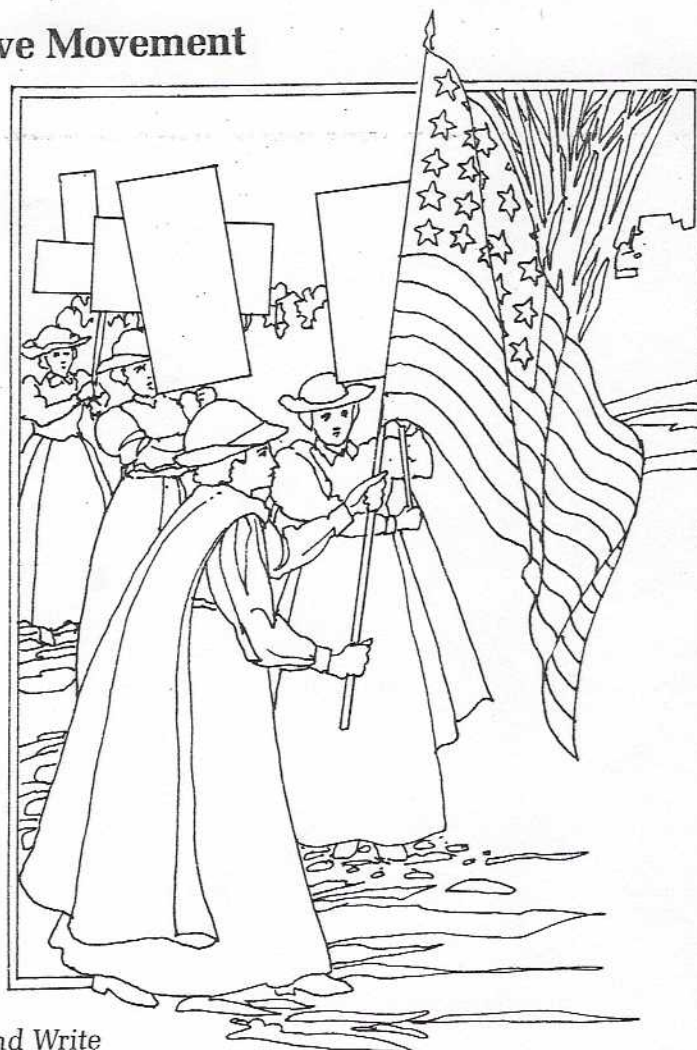
3. Research Garfield's assassination. Tell what effect it had on the way the nation now chooses its government workers.

The Progressive Movement

As the 19th century came to a close, many people in America began to speak out against corrupt politics, big business and monopolistic industries, and various social injustices. A new wave of reformers, calling themselves the Progressives, began to face these issues and expose unfair practices.

Unlike the farming group represented by the Populists of the 1890s, the Progressives were predominantly an urban people. Still, they adopted some of the Populist ideas of government involvement in helping to solve social and economic problems. The Progressives also took on Populist views about getting the average person interested and active in politics.

This movement of conscientious reformers drew largely from the well-educated, urban class. Members were teachers, lawyers, social workers, writers, and editors, as well as women who had the time to become involved with the issues. With glaring effectiveness, reformers exposed blights on the America of their day, including the slums and the sweatshops, political graft, contaminated food, mistreatment of children, and other problems. Interestingly, the Progressives did not deal with improvements for minority groups such as Native Americans, Blacks, and Mexican Americans.



Review and Write

1. How were Progressives similar to Populists? _____

How were they different? _____

2. Progressives who wrote about the injustices they witnessed or researched were called **muckrakers**. This term was first used by Theodore Roosevelt to describe the authors by comparing them to the man with a rake in *Pilgrim's Progress* who searches the floor for filth. In your own words, how would you describe a muckraker? _____

3. As Roosevelt used it, do you think the term "muckraker" was meant to be complimentary to the writers or critical of their efforts? Why? _____

4. Today, we call the work done by writers and journalists similar to the muckrakers' "investigative journalism." What is a recent example of muckraking by journalists today? What areas of injustice were exposed? _____

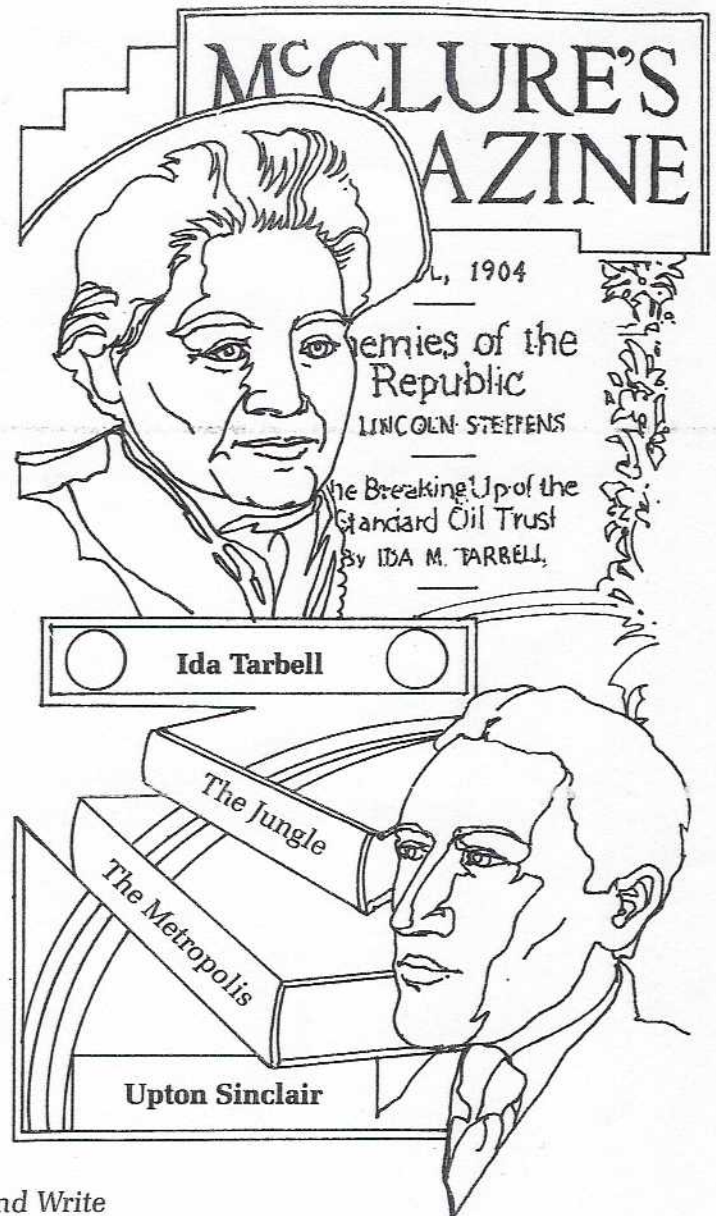
The Progressive Writers

Throughout the first decade of the 20th century, various writers, journalists, historians, and novelists began to write dramatically about the abuses they witnessed in American society and in the field of business.

The first noteworthy magazine to publish sensational muckraking articles was *McClure's*, published by S.S. McClure. He began his publishing career in the 1880s with a cycling magazine, focusing on a popular craze of the time. In 1903, with the serialized installments of Ida Tarbell's "A History of the Standard Oil Company," *McClure's* became a different sort of periodical. The articles were highly critical of Rockefeller's business practices. From that date on, *McClure's* became the most important and influential muckraking periodical in America.

Throughout the intervening years, other muckrakers wrote for *McClure's* as well as for similar periodicals that emerged. Also, books and novels exposed everything from the unsanitary conditions of the Chicago meat-packing industry to the political graft of "boss-ridden" cities such as St. Louis and Cincinnati. With the growing circulation of newspapers and magazines, millions read the articles of the muckrakers and became morally outraged at society's abuses.

As a result of the degenerating political system and the journalism that threw a spotlight on it, most members of the growing middle class began to see the need to participate in government. New styles of city management came into being. Child labor laws were enacted, and building codes and safety regulations for labor were put into use.



Review and Write

1. Explain why the contributions of the muckrakers were important and helpful to the cause of the Progressives. _____

2. Several influential muckrakers in the early 1900s are listed below along with the title of one of their works. Choose one author to research and write about his/her contribution to the Progressive movement. Include any reforms that occurred due to their work.
 Norris, Frank. *The Octopus*, 1901.
 Sinclair, Upton. *The Jungle*, 1906.
 Spargo, John. *The Bitter Cry of the Children*, 1906.
 Steffens, Lincoln. *The Shame of the Cities*, 1904.
 Tarbell, Ida. "A History of the Standard Oil Company." *McClure's*, 1903.

Up Close:**Progressive Leaders**

Progressive leaders, eager to make social and political reforms, included Robert LaFollette, Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and Eugene V. Debs.

Theodore Roosevelt – Became president in 1901; used “bully pulpit”¹ to raise awareness of world politics, business excesses, and political corruption; created the Forest Service and designated public lands as national forests; began “trust-busting” policy to break up huge conglomerates; mediated workers’ strikes; regulated interstate railroad rates; supported passage of the Food, Drug, and Meat Inspection acts; formed the Progressive (“Bull Moose”) Party and ran for president again in 1912; lost the election to Democrat Woodrow Wilson



Theodore Roosevelt

Robert La Follette – Wisconsin governor and U.S. senator who targeted the railroads’ abuse of power, increasing their taxes, creating a regulatory commission, and passing laws against their freight rates, labor policies, and financing practices; supported such progressive efforts as state civil-service reform and the direct primary; ran for president in 1912 as a Republican and in 1924 as a Progressive

William Howard Taft – Lawyer and judge who sometimes ruled against organized labor, but upheld the rights of workers to unionize and strike. Became president in 1908; was expected to carry on Roosevelt’s progressive agenda, but did not appoint any progressives to his cabinet; although a strong “trust-buster” and conservationist, further annoyed progressives by passing a tariff they had expected him to veto; lost all progressive Republican support and angered Roosevelt; received the Republican nomination despite primary election results clearly favoring Roosevelt, causing progressives to feel the convention was fixed and to bolt their party to form another

Eugene V. Debs – Railroad worker, labor organizer, and author/lecturer who faced imprisonment for his union activities and outspoken criticism of the government; helped organize a local chapter of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen; served as a member of the Indiana legislature (1885); in 1891, was elected president of the American Railway Union, which became famous for a strike against the Great Northern Railroad; sentenced to six months in jail for organizing the Chicago Pullman Strike (1894); became a Socialist in 1897; helped establish the Socialist Party of America in 1898; campaigned for president in 1900, 1904, 1908, 1912, and 1920; helped found Industrial Workers of the World

¹bully pulpit: using one’s office to expound one’s views

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THE PROGRESSIVE ERA

The progressives were people who desired to reform America. From 1900 to 1917 they worked to end child labor, clean up city slums, stop corruption in politics, and most importantly, to limit the power of corporate trusts. They challenged the powerful interests that were controlling government and preventing "common people" from reaping the benefits of America's growing wealth.

The central ideal of the progressives was to revolt against organized interests in the name of the common people. Progressive governors such as Robert LaFollete of Wisconsin, Albert Cummins of Iowa, and Hiram Johnson of California promoted reforms in their states. Their goals were to increase

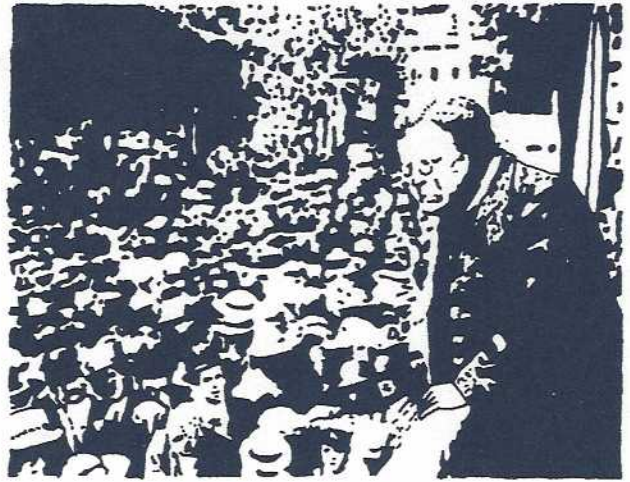
the efficiency of the government and achieve social reforms that would benefit the public.

President Theodore Roosevelt was the most famous of all the early progressives. While not as radical in his pursuit of reform as some, he used the presidency as a "bully pulpit" to preach for reform. The term "bully pulpit" was Roosevelt's term for his belief that the president had the unique power to affect public opinion through his speeches. Roosevelt, along with a number of journalists, exposed scandals to the public. Journalists such as Upton Sinclair became known as "muckrakers" for their ability to expose scandals to the public. By effectively building up public opinion in favor of reform, the muckrakers were able to bring about reform through public pressure on politicians.

"Trust-busting" is a term that has become widely associated with the Progressive Era. As America's industrial economy matured, a handful of large corporations came to control a vast amount of the productive capacity and capital of the country. Men such as J.P. Morgan, Andrew Carnegie, and John D. Rockefeller became immensely powerful. Their companies had driven their rivals out of business or bought out their competitors, achieving monopolies or "trusts" for their products. Without competition, their companies were able to charge exceedingly high prices for their products. While forming a trust might have been a good business strategy for the wealthy companies, it clearly was detrimental for the American public. Their influence on government was also great due to their immense wealth, and the American public rightly feared that the government was no longer acting in the public interest but for the interests of the large corporate trusts.

In 1890 Congress had passed the Sherman Anti-trust Act that made the formation of monopolies illegal. For over a decade, however, the government never enforced the legislation. President Roosevelt set out to challenge the power of the trusts using the Sherman Anti-trust Act. He formed a department to investigate and prosecute the worst trusts, and spoke constantly from his "bully pulpit" on the dangers of trusts. More radical progressives were disappointed that Roosevelt did not go further in his trust-busting, but Roosevelt realized that it was impossible to completely unravel all of the trusts, choosing instead to prosecute the worst offenders. Presidents William Taft and Woodrow Wilson followed a similar path after Roosevelt left office.

During the Progressive Era, government took on a new role. For the first time government claimed the right to regulate businesses for the public good. As a result, government grew larger and more powerful, while the political power of large corporations diminished. The public regained faith in a government controlled by the people, rather than one that was controlled by big business.



Theodore Roosevelt was one of the progressives working for reforms in business and government.

Lesson

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Reforming the New Society

IT'S IMPORTANT:

- To understand how industrialization led to a need for reevaluating and changing the traditional role of government in relation to the economy and social conditions
- To investigate key turning points in history and explain their significance
- To gather and organize information about the important achievements and contributions of individuals and groups living in New York State and the United States
- To classify major developments into categories such as social, political, economic, geographic, technological, scientific, cultural, or religious
- To describe historic events from the perspectives of those who were there

To a greater extent than ever before, America at the turn of the 20th century was a new world. Industrialization and urbanization had transformed virtually every citizen's way of life. Americans began to realize that the old ways of managing society were no longer sufficient to address the nation's modern concerns. The turn of the century brought calls for social and political reforms, often called the **Progressive Movement**.

Exposing America's Social Ills

The American people became interested in dramatic newspaper stories in the 1890s. The most startling articles revealed corruption in business and government or described human suffering at the hands of big business. The January 1903 issue of *McClure's Magazine* featured a number of such articles, ushering in a journalistic trend of exposing social ills. These exposés appeared in newspapers, magazines, and books such as *The Jungle*, which depicted conditions in the meat-packing industry. President Theodore Roosevelt criticized the negativity of such exposés, calling the writers "**muckrakers**." The nickname was considered a positive one by journalists who exposed corruption and abuses in industry, government, and urban living environments.

Racial discrimination

As the muckrakers were fighting corruption, others were fighting racial discrimination. Some African Americans, under the leadership of Booker T. Washington, felt it was best to accept discrimination and work hard to earn white people's respect. In opposition to this philosophy was the Niagara Movement, a fellowship of African American intellectuals led by **W.E.B. DuBois**, which demanded full civil liberties for African Americans and an end to racial discrimination and intolerance. A race riot in Springfield, Illinois, in 1908 brought attention to the Niagara Movement. Many of its members, including DuBois, joined with white liberal activists to form the **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)** in 1909.



Above: W.E.B. DuBois

The temperance movement

Still other groups of Americans faced their own moral challenge: Members of the temperance movement sought to reduce the use of liquor. Temperance advocates, such as the members of the Anti-Saloon League, took political measures to achieve national **prohibition** (legal outlaw) of liquor. In 1919, the prohibitionists won the **18th Amendment**, making the manufacture, sale, and transportation of liquor illegal throughout the United States. (It would take another amendment to undo Prohibition in 1933.)

Settlement houses and urban poverty



Jane Addams

Settlement houses began appearing in cities in the mid-1880s, starting with Toynbee Hall in London, England. The houses, staffed by people concerned for the welfare of impoverished children, offered social services to improve life in poorer neighborhoods. American visitors to Toynbee Hall brought the idea back to the United States, forming the Neighborhood Guild (1886) and College Settlement (1889) in New York City. The most famous settlement house was founded in Chicago in 1889 by **Jane Addams** and **Ellen Gates Starr**. The **Hull House** grew from a single residence to a large campus with a playground. Addams and Starr lobbied for child labor and protection laws, and they worked to develop trade unions, welfare programs, and women's suffrage. Settlement houses were very active in turn-of-the-century America among the new immigrant communities and were an important force for social reform.

Quick Review 1: What social problems did the progressive activists of the early 1900s try to solve?

- After Reconstruction ended, the NAACP formed to fight
- A. the excessive consumption of alcohol.
 - B. corruption in government.
 - C. racial discrimination.
 - D. corporate monopolies.

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Efforts to Reform Government and Politics

After years of political machines dominating government, many Americans felt a need for more responsive government at local, state, and national levels. Political reformers sought to introduce measures that would weaken the political parties' control and require politicians to return to their main duty, that of representing the interests of the voters in their region rather than advancing a general party agenda. Such measures included direct primary elections, the initiative, the referendum, and the recall election.

① ~~Australian (or Secret) Ballot~~ Right to vote privately without fear of intimidation.

② **Direct primary elections** enable members of a political party to vote directly for the candidate they want to nominate. Previously, the nominee was chosen by a small group of delegates who might not represent the interests of most party members.

③ **The initiative** allows a specified number of voters to petition for (request) a popular vote on a proposed law or an amendment to a constitution, giving voters the opportunity to change unpopular policies.

④ **The referendum** is a special vote whereby the public decides whether a piece of legislation or constitutional amendment should be passed or repealed. A referendum may be the result of an initiative, it may be an automatic requirement (as with constitutional amendments), or it may be offered to voters by a legislature.

⑤ **The recall election** enables voters to remove a representative from office if they feel he or she is not acting in their interests.

Among the amendments to the Constitution that were passed in this period (1900–1920), two were of primary importance to political reform. The **17th Amendment** (1913) changed the way United States senators were elected. Instead of being elected by state legislatures, senators would now be elected directly by the voters in their states. The **19th Amendment** (1920) granted women the right to vote.

Quick Review 2: What political reform enabled voters to repeal unpopular laws?

- A. direct primary election
- B. initiative
- C. referendum
- D. recall election

The 17th amendment, calling for the direct election of Senators, was one step the government took toward greater

- A. accuracy.
- B. socialism.
- C. aristocracy.
- D. democracy.

Economic Reform Efforts

Progressive leaders also passed labor-related legislation such as minimum wage laws, workmen's compensation insurance, child labor laws, and safety regulations. For example, Robert La Follette's Seaman's Act (1915) increased passenger safety on ships and improved sailors' working conditions.

Presidents Roosevelt and Taft aggressively pursued prosecuting trusts, invoking the Sherman Antitrust Act to ensure fair competition. Roosevelt began his "trust busting" by breaking up the Northern Securities Company, a railroad holding company. He continued with suits against 43 other corporations. Taft went on to prosecute more than twice as many trusts as Roosevelt had, including the powerful Standard Oil Company and American Tobacco Company, both of which the Supreme Court ordered to reorganize in 1911.

La Follette and Roosevelt also supported government regulation of the railroads. For example, Roosevelt pushed the Elkins and Hepburn Acts through Congress, outlawing freight charge rebates and enabling the Interstate Commerce Commission to fix railroad rates.

The **Federal Reserve Act** (1913) was enacted under President Woodrow Wilson, the progressive Democrat who succeeded Taft. The act was designed to regulate credit and improve banking services. The Federal Reserve Board (often called "the Fed") controls the amount of money in circulation and the interest rates on loans.

In 1913, Congress approved the introduction of a **federal income tax** with the ratification of the **16th Amendment** to the Constitution. Previously, the federal government's main source of income was tariffs and taxes paid by the states proportionately by population. Under the new system, individuals and corporations paid a percentage of their income or profit directly to the federal government.

Minimum wage laws require businesses to pay workers no less than a certain amount of money per hour.

Workmen's compensation insurance is a type of insurance employers must carry; it is paid to workers who are injured on the job to cover medical expenses and lost income.

Child labor laws limit the types of work children may do, the age at which they may begin working, and the number of hours they may work.

Safety regulations require businesses to maintain working conditions that are not dangerous to their employees.

Quick Review 3: Which sentence best summarizes the economic reforms made by the progressives?

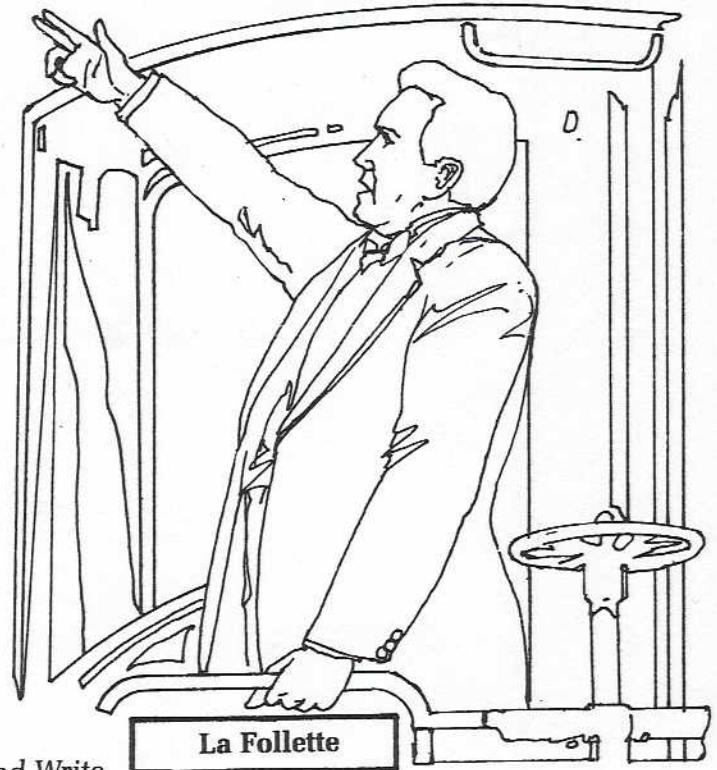
- A. Progressive leaders were concerned only with legislation that involved ensuring the safety of laborers.
- B. Progressive politicians attempted to weaken America's industries and increase their own fortunes by interfering in business and taxing the rich.
- C. The federal government ignored the needs of the people by focusing on the problems of big business and taking a percentage of individuals' income.
- D. Laws were passed to protect workers from the abuses of large corporations, to manage the economy, and to pay for government services.

The Progressives and Political Reform

Progressives not only attempted to reform state governments, but even sought political changes on the national level. One state particularly associated with this period of reform was Wisconsin, and the outstanding voice for reform was that of Robert M. La Follette. Elected governor in 1900, an office he held until 1906, La Follette was then elected to the U.S. Senate where he served for nineteen years. While governor, he pursued a program of political reform and business regulation known as the "Wisconsin Plan." Sometimes called "Battling Bob," La Follette crusaded for direct primary elections, railroad regulation, a workman's compensation law, a graduated income tax, and conservation of forests. By 1918, similar progressive measures had been passed by twenty states.

On the national level, three amendments were added to the Constitution due to the steps taken by Progressives and other reformers. In 1912, the Seventeenth Amendment established direct popular election for U.S. senators, where previously they had been selected by local legislatures. In 1920, the

short-lived Eighteenth Amendment was passed to enforce prohibition, making sales of alcohol illegal. That same year saw the Nineteenth Amendment bring suffrage, or the right to vote, to American women.



Review and Write

1. Wisconsin's direct primary concept, adopted in 1903, and other state reforms are listed below. Using a dictionary or source book, identify each.

direct primary _____

referendum _____

initiative _____

recall _____

secret ballot _____

2. What did the Seventeenth Amendment seek to correct? _____
3. Why do you think the Eighteenth Amendment was passed? _____
4. What did the Nineteenth Amendment allow women? _____
Do you think this had any immediate effect on women's role in government? _____

President Roosevelt and Domestic Issues

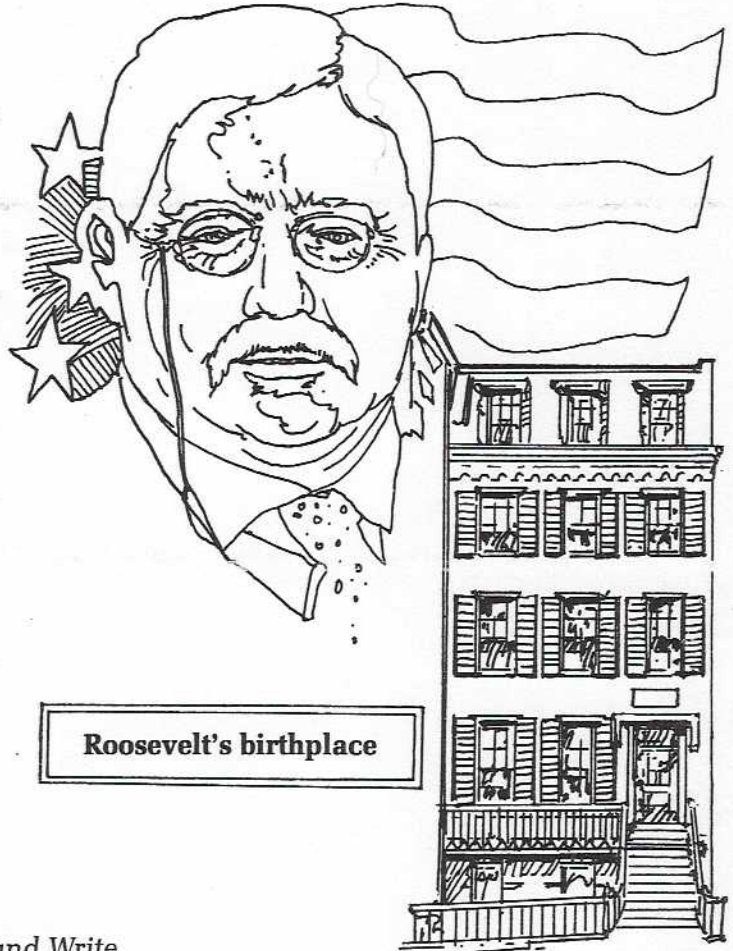
Theodore Roosevelt was born in 1858 in New York City. He grew up in a wealthy home and was able to live his life as he chose. Despite ill health as a young man (he suffered from asthma), he was active in sports such as boxing and hunting. He even spent time as a rancher in the Dakota Badlands.

Roosevelt's political activities as a young man included New York state assemblyman, member of the federal Civil Service Commission, and police commissioner in New York City. In the 1890s, he was Assistant Secretary of the Navy during McKinley's first term and then governor of New York. In 1900, Roosevelt was elected Vice-President under McKinley.

After McKinley's assassination in 1901, Roosevelt became head of state. Working to make the office a powerful one, he acted boldly on several occasions. One of his early goals was to regulate big business. At that time many businesses had consolidated into **trusts**. These trusts were a form of monopoly which often enabled a business to run more efficiently, but they also tended to cut out competition and upset an open market. Roosevelt began an attack on what he saw as a bad trust by ordering the breakup of the Northern Securities Company in 1904. He felt this railroad company had too much power and had allowed too little competition. He broke up a number of trusts while allowing still others to remain intact. His personal rule was to dissolve trusts only if they were harmful to the public.

Roosevelt also used his presidential powers to encourage conservation and the careful use of the

nation's natural resources. During his stay in office, many acres were declared national parks, preserved lands, and protected forests. As President, Roosevelt worked to make conservation a national issue. The U.S. Forest Service was established during his second term.



Review and Write

1. Compare Theodore Roosevelt's approach to the presidency with that of the President today. Give similarities and differences. Whom would you prefer and why? _____

2. Roosevelt became known as a "trust buster" during his first term as President. What do you think the term meant? _____
Describe how his moves in this area affected the Northern Securities Company. _____

3. Find out what relationship Roosevelt had to the "Teddy Bear." _____

FROM CONSERVATION TO ENVIRONMENTALISM

When English colonists first settled in America, the land seemed to offer an unlimited supply of natural resources. Labor, rather than materials, had always been lacking, and for generations Americans used the soil, timber, and mineral resources of the country as if the supply would never be depleted. Rivers and lakes became polluted, forests were destroyed, and animal species were wiped out as American industry grew.



Although industry has been a major source of pollution, recent efforts have been made to control the emission and disposal of harmful substances.

Among the first men to preach against the rapid consumption of America's resources was John Muir. Muir was a tinkerer and inventor who gave up his business pursuits to wander through America's wilderness. He possessed a spiritual reverence for nature and said he felt closest to God when he was wandering through the woods. Muir became an activist, forming the Sierra Club in 1892 to make the public aware of the destruction of the environment. Muir wrote several magazine articles encouraging the government to take a more active role in protecting the environment. President Theodore Roosevelt met with him at Yosemite National Park in 1901.

Theodore Roosevelt was the first national leader to understand that America's resources were limited. Always an outdoorsman, Roosevelt had a sportsman's interest in preserving America's environment and took an interest in the opinion of Muir and other conservationists. Largely because of Roosevelt's leadership, conservation became one of the principles of the Progressive Era. During his presidency Roosevelt called for a program of "rational management" for the nation's resources. He understood that the businessmen of the era preferred to make quick, large profits rather than preserve the country's resources. Only government regulation could dictate rational management of resources, and in 1908 Roosevelt held a White House conference to adopt national policies of natural resource use. While some commercial development of the government lands was allowed, consideration was also given to the preservation of the natural environment.

Conservation gradually disappeared from the public consciousness after Theodore Roosevelt left office, but it again seized the nation's attention while Franklin D. Roosevelt was president. America was suffering from an economic depression, and Roosevelt implemented a program known as the New Deal. Among the New Deal programs was the creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1933. The CCC was a program designed partly to provide jobs for the millions of men left unemployed during the depression, but much practical work was done by the agency. The CCC workers planted trees, fought forest fires, and built dams. In 1935 the Soil Conservation Corps was created to promote soil conservation practices among American farmers.

Today Americans have returned to their sporadic concern with conserving natural resources and protecting the environment. Smog, acid rain, and mounting piles of garbage have again brought environmental problems to our attention. The disposal of nuclear waste has presented us with new dilemmas. Taking measures to protect the environment is often expensive. Facing choices between environmental protection and economic growth is never easy. Hopefully, Americans will remain interested in conserving our environment and come to find ways of wisely utilizing our natural resources.



The Taft Presidency

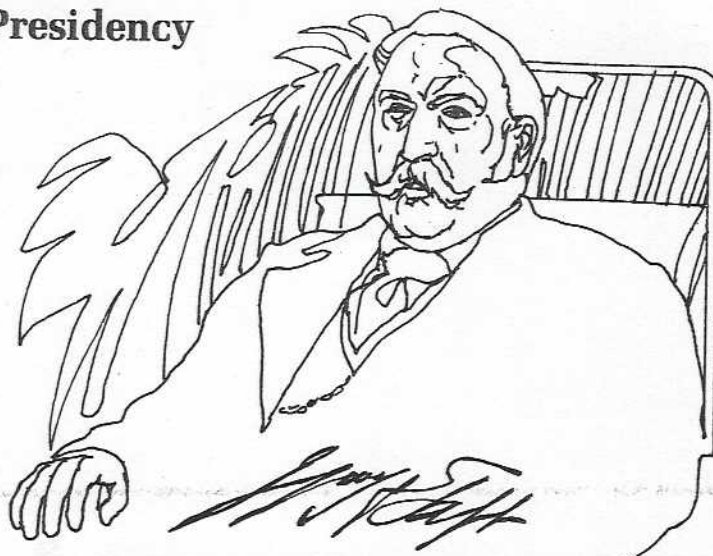
Early in 1908, the Roosevelts hosted the Tafts for an evening dinner. Following the meal, the two families went to the library. There President Roosevelt pretended he was a fortune teller speaking of his vision: "I see a man standing before me weighing about 350 pounds. There is something hanging over his head. I cannot make out what it is; it is hanging by a slender thread. At one time it looks like the presidency. Then again it looks like the Chief Justiceship."

Mrs. Taft exclaimed, "Make it the presidency!"

William H. Taft, in a voice quiet and sincere, made known his wish: "Make it the Chief Justiceship."

In spite of his own preference, Taft inherited the presidency. As a candidate, he had promised to continue the practices initiated by Roosevelt. Once elected, he worked to keep that promise. As a result, Taft broke up more trusts than had Roosevelt. Standard Oil Company of New Jersey was one example of a "busted trust" which was dissolved by the Supreme Court in 1911. Taft had actively fought for this end. In spite of his efforts, the Progressives felt he had not done enough, and conservatives took issue with his actions.

Taft also offended the Progressives as he acted on his campaign promise to lower tariffs. He called a special meeting of Congress to work on the new tariff. Despite his efforts, the Senate voted for a tariff that was, in general, to remain high. Afterwards Taft, wanting to make the best of matters and win Senate support, called the tariff the best one in years. This angered the Progressives who again felt Taft had let them down.



The President even had trouble with conservation. Although he placed more U.S. land under protection than had Roosevelt, the public had the impression he was willing to open up such lands for exploitation by businessmen. One example of a seemingly anti-conservationist stand occurred in late 1909 when Taft fired the famous Gifford Pinchot, head of the Forestry Service. Pinchot had aroused criticism of the Department of the Interior for mishandling of funds and illegal transactions in the Alaskan coal fields. Many believed there was some truth to his accusations.

One result of Taft's problems as President was that Roosevelt began to speak out against his old friend. By 1910, it was obvious that Theodore Roosevelt, back home from safari in Africa, was ready to run again. As for Taft, in 1921 he was to become the Chief Justice of the United States, thus fulfilling his own wish.

Review and Write

1. Why do you think Taft preferred the position of Chief Justice to that of the President? _____

2. Although a conservative man, Taft was responsible for certain successes for the Progressive cause. Describe the successes noted above. _____

3. Despite his accomplishments in office, Taft's term was marked by political conflict. What were some of these conflicts? _____

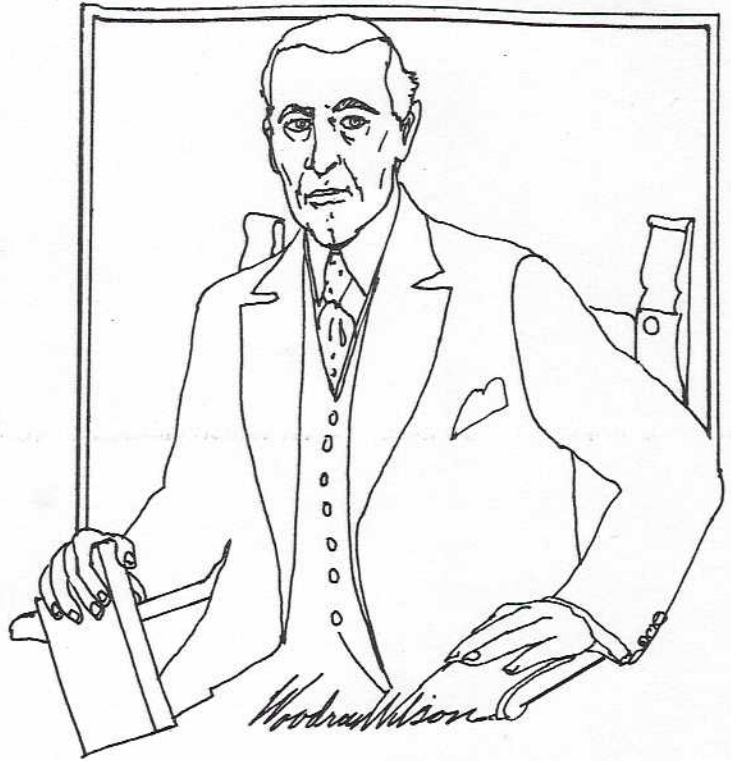
4. Why do you think Roosevelt came to feel that Taft had let him down as President? _____

President Wilson and Progressive Reforms

The election of 1912 proved to be a significant victory for the Progressives. Although their actual candidate, Theodore Roosevelt, had lost, Wilson continued the Progressive philosophy. His platform, which called for the "New Freedom," proved as acceptable to the Progressives as Roosevelt's had been. Even though Wilson did not receive a majority of the popular vote, there was widespread support for his program of social reforms.

Wilson proved to be a capable leader. He saw to the passage of the Federal Reserve Act (1913) which created the Federal Reserve System. This act restored a centralized banking system which had been gone from the country since Jackson's time. In the system, the nation was divided into twelve districts, with a Federal Reserve Bank in each district. These banks had the power to regulate the banks chartered in each of these districts. The intent of the regulation was to establish basic policies that would help avoid a national economic depression.

The new Democratic President worked to break up trusts as had the two Presidents before him. However, his approach was more to control the trusts as had Roosevelt, rather than to bust them as had been Taft's general practice. In 1914, Wilson supported the creation of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). The purpose of the commission was to serve as a watchdog over large companies and corporations. Other acts supported by Wilson included the Clayton Antitrust Act (1914) which was set up to improve competition in the business world. Planned to stop unfair business practices, this act extended the



Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890 by outlawing price discrimination and interlocking boards.

In the last year of his first term, Wilson campaigned for the eight-hour day, improved working conditions, easier credit for farmers, a child labor law, and other reforms. By 1917, as his second term was ending, the Progressive era had nearly run its course. The days of reform were dying out. Americans were now looking overseas, watching a war which was about to draw the United States in as a participant.

Review and Write

1. Which of Wilson's Progressive reforms do you think was the most important? Why? _____

2. Describe the Federal Reserve System and its purpose(s). _____

3. Wilson was perhaps the most scholarly President in our history since John Quincy Adams. Research his background and tell about the experiences which led him to the White House. _____

