Unit 3: The Progressive Era

Essential Questions:

1. Can government fix our problems?
2. How did Americans address the problems caused by the Gilded Age?
3. Is a strong president good for our nation?

Vocabulary:

- Muckraker
- Recall
- Suffrage
- NAACP
- Square Deal
- Initiative
- Referendum
- Conservation
- Temperance
- Child Labor
- Social Gospel
- Teddy Roosevelt
- Socialism
- Lobbying
- Federal Reserve System
- The Jungle
- Pure Food and Drug Act
- Meat Inspection Act
- Clayton-Antitrust Act
- Forest Reserve Act
What *inferences* can be made about muckrakers based on this cartoon?

1. Have your guided notes ready to go.
2. Grab 4 half sheets of paper. Fold them in half (hamburger) and put two staples along the crease.
3. Put your: Name, Date, Period and “Muckraker Activity” on the cover.
The Progressive Era
1890-1920
Americans attempting to fix the problems created by the Gilded Age.
Roots of the Movement

- 1900 to WWI

- Led by middle class workers who believed in “progress”

- Wanted to fix the social, political, and economic problems of industrialization

*Big businesses, corrupt political bosses, and even some labor unions*
Social Reforms

Progressive Era leaders wanted **reforms** for many types of social issues:

- Women
- Minorities
- Immigrants
- Children
- Social Gospel

Reform = Change or Improvement
Social Gospel Movement

• Protestant ministers called for social reforms:
  ▪ Wanted to Abolish child labor
  ▪ Provide safe working conditions
• Salvation Army – Christian duty to help the poor
• Religious & social reform led to concern over violence & its connection to alcohol
• Frances Willard – led a women’s group for temperance that would end the sale of alcohol
• 18th Amendment – Prohibition (no alcohol)
The Social Reformers

1. Jane Addams
   • Started **settlement houses** in slum neighborhoods
     ▪ All-purpose community center for poor and immigrants living in cities
   • Lived at **Hull House** – one of the settlement houses

2. Ida B. Wells
   • Organized a national **anti-lynching campaign**
3. **W.E.B. DuBois**
- Founder of the **NAACP** (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People)
- Black people should seek **immediate** racial equality

4. **Booker T. Washington**
- Black people should seek **gradual** equality by focusing on education and job training

5. **Anti-Defamation League**
- Jewish organization opposed to religious prejudice
Muckrakers

• Investigative reporters who exposed the abuses of industrial society and government corruption

• They raked up the “muck” or dirt of American life

• Their newspapers and magazines reached many people

Objective: To examine the impact of muckrakers on U.S. society.
Famous Muckrakers

Upton Sinclair
- wrote *The Jungle*
- described unsanitary conditions of the meat-packing industry

Jacob Riis
- photographed conditions of the urban poor & tenements

Ida Tarbell
- showed how Rockefeller’s rise was based on ruthless business practices

Frank Norris
- exposed the stranglehold of railroads over farmers

Lincoln Steffens
- exposed corruption in government
1. Grab three sheets of paper and cut them in half hot dog style.

2. Grab one half sheet.

3. Fold your sheets of paper in half (hamburger style) and staple the edge with two staples.

4. On the cover page, put your name, date and period along with the title, “Progressive Era Muckraker”.

5. PHONES NEED TO BE PUT AWAY!!!!! You may not walk around taking pictures and then sitting at your desk.
Muckraker Activity

You are an early 1900’s muckraker exposing the negative aspects of American society during the Gilded Age.

For each of the 13 stations in your Muckraking Notepad you will need the following information:


2. Photo: Describe the photo. (i.e. What do you see/notice going on in the photo as it relates to the problem discussed in the station?) Give me a one sentence description.

3. Article: Identify 2 issues/problems/hardships faced by Americans in regards to the problem. You must use complete sentences: Writing, “life sucked” is not an appropriate answer.

4. Quote: What is the author in the quote saying in relation to the issue you are investigating?
Political (Government) Reforms

- **Secret Ballots** - took pressure off voters

- **Direct Primaries** – party members vote for a candidate to run in the general election

- **17th Amendment** – direct elections of senators instead of being nominated by state congressmen

- **Initiative** – voters introduce bills for voting

- **Referendum** – the people vote on *legislation* introduced by Congress

- **Recall** – special vote to remove bad or corrupt leaders

Legislation = Laws
Political (Government) Reforms

• Municipal (City) Governments
  ▪ Began to fight political machines
  ▪ Increased support for city services and public-minded mayors

  Political Machine = Government & Businessmen working together & using bribes

• State Governments
  ▪ Governor Robert LaFollette – challenged bosses and railroads
  ▪ Theodore Roosevelt – challenged corruption & big business as a state governor
Civil Service

• The Pendleton Act
  ▪ Created **Civil Service**: awarded govt jobs based on **competitive exam** results, not bribes
  ▪ Why? Because many government people **got their jobs because they bribed** the politicians
  ▪ **Theodore Roosevelt** became the Civil Service Commissioner

Political (Government) Reforms
Changing Roles for Women

Beginning in 1848, women began to fight for their rights.

Susan B. Anthony – led a movement for suffrage
  – Jailed for trying to vote

Elizabeth Cady Stanton – Joined with Susan B. Anthony to fight for women’s suffrage

Suffrage = Right to Vote
19th Amendment

- During World War I, a large push was made for women’s suffrage
- Alice Paul – leader of a new rights group
  - Led protests in Washington
  - Arrested with several others
  - Protested her imprisonment by refusing to eat
    • She was force-fed (Iron-jawed Angels)
- After years of struggle, suffrage was granted to women in 1920 when the 19th amendment was ratified

Ratified = Approved by the States

How do I remember that the 19th amendment was women’s right to vote?
Labor Reform

- **Unions** were growing in power, especially due to growing numbers of tragedies

- **Triangle Shirtwaist Factory:**
  - Fire in the factory killed 146 people (mostly women)
  - No sprinkler system/fire escape
  - Doors bolted shut

- **Department of Labor** was formed to protect workers
  - Set safety standards such as fire alarms, sprinklers, exit signs, unlockable doors that open outward
The view from the building next door.

Inside the building

Some of the girls jumped
Labor Reform

• Progressive reformers **spearheaded** the end of **child labor**
• Children were more prone to accidents caused by fatigue
• Nearly every state banned or limited child labor by **1918**
• Progressives got **worker’s compensation** to help families of injured workers

**Spearhead = to lead**
President Theodore Roosevelt

• Wanted to represent all Americans
  – Helped end the **Anthracite Coalminers’ Strike** (1902) by mediating between workers and owners
  – Nicknamed **“The Trust-Buster”** – used the Sherman Anti-trust Act to break up monopolies such as Rockefeller’s Standard Oil Company
Roosevelt’s Square Deal

• Laissez-faire had been forcing Americans to look out for themselves

• Roosevelt promised to protect *health*, *natural resources*, and *consumers*
  – **Meat Inspection Act** – Cleaner conditions for meat packing industry
  – **Pure Food & Drug Act** – Stopped the sale of contaminated food & medicine
  – **National Conservation** – Creation of national parks
  – **Interstate Commerce** – Regulation of Railroads, telegraph & telephone systems

*Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming*
• Republican Roosevelt did not run for a 3\textsuperscript{rd} term, but helped fellow Republican William Taft get elected
• Taft “busted” 90 trusts & monopolies during his 4 years in office
• He lacked political skills and was not popular with the American public
• He backtracked on Roosevelt’s conservation

I am afraid I am a constant disappointment to my party. The fact of the matter is, the longer I am president the less of a party man I seem to become.

(William Howard Taft)
Election of 1912

- Taft ran for president again as a republican
- Teddy Roosevelt ran in a new 3rd party called the Bull Moose Party
- Since republicans were split between the 2 parties, Democrat Woodrow Wilson won the election
- Wilson continued conservation with the National Park Services
Wilson’s New Freedom

Wilson wanted to encourage competition:

- **Underwood Tariff** – Lowered tariffs from 40% to 25%

  Tariff = Tax on imported items from other countries

- **16th Amendment** – Graduated Income Tax

- **Federal Reserve Act** – Created a national bank that regulates money in circulation and controls lending

- **Clayton Anti-trust Act** – Increased trust-busting power
  - Created the **Federal Trade Commission**
    (The Business Watchdog)
WWI Effectively Brought the Progressive Era to an End