The Progressive Era
Review

1. During which years did the Gilded Age take place?
   • 1877-1900

2. What were some of the problems of the Gilded Age?
   • Political corruption
   • Crime, violence, unsanitary living conditions
   • Poor working conditions
   • Abuses from railroads and trusts/monopolies
   • Disparity between rich and poor
What is the Progressive Era?

- Lasts from 1890-1920
- Collection of different ideas and activities that were designed to fix the problems in American society
- People who believe in this are called progressives, or reformers
- Progressives believe that the government should take a more active role in fixing society’s problems
Muckrakers

- Crusading journalists who investigate and expose poor social conditions and political corruption

- Jacob Riis’s *How the Other Half Lives*

- Upton Sinclair’s *The Jungle*
THE HISTORY OF THE STANDARD OIL COMPANY

BY

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THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN, THE LIFE OF NAPOLEON BONAPARTE,
AND MADAME ROLAND: A BIOGRAPHICAL STUDY

ILLUSTRATED WITH PORTRAITS, PICTURES AND DIAGRAMS

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Source: Udo J. Keppler, Puck, September 7, 1904 (adapted)
John Spargo

The Bitter Cry of the Children

By John Spargo • Introduction by Walter I. Trattner
Progressivism is not necessarily one single movement. Rather, there are different types of progressives, each with different goals.

1. Efficiency Progressive
2. Democratic Progressive
3. Big Business Progressive
4. Social Welfare Progressive
Efficiency Progressive

- Some Progressives think that if the government is working properly, problems will be eliminated.

- Want to make local and state governments more efficient

- In order to avoid corruption in cities, city governments should use a commission plan in which the government is divided into departments, each run by an expert commissioner and hired by an experienced city manager
Efficiency Progressive

COUNCIL-MANAGER

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

- ADVISORY BOARDS
  - Parking Authority Manager
- PARKING AUTHORITY BOARD
- LIBRARY BOARD
  - Library Director
- RECREATION/AUDITORIUM BOARD
  - Aud/Rec Director

CITY MANAGER

- City Clerk/Human Resources
- City Attorney
- Fire Chief
- Airport Director
- City Assessor
- Police Chief
- Public Works Director
- Finance Director
- City Engineer
Democratic Progressive

- Other Progressives wanted elected officials to be more responsive to voters
  - Address and end political machine corruption

- Governor Robert LaFollette of Wisconsin
  - Required each party to hold a direct primary in which all party members can vote for a candidate to run in the general election
Democratic Progressive

Designed to force state legislatures to respond to what voters want, instead of what party bosses want.

1. **Initiative** - allows citizens to introduce legislation and required the state legislature to vote on it.
2. **Referendum** - Allows voters to approve all proposed legislation.
3. **Recall** - allows voters to call a special election in order to fire an elected official.
Check

1. What problem did Ida Tarbell’s muckraking reveal?
   - Standard Oil monopoly has too much power to control prices

2. What is the goal of an efficiency progressive?
   - To make government more efficient by having a knowledgeable leader for each city department (ex. Fire Department and Police Department)

3. What things would make a government more responsive to what the voters want?
   - Initiative, referendum, recall, primary
Big Business Progressive

- Believe that wealth was concentrated in the hands of too few
- Concerned about trusts and holding companies (giant corporations that dominated many industries)

- Some believe in socialism (opposite of laissez-faire; government should own and operate industry)
  - Ex. Eugene Debs
- Some want to break up big companies to restore competition
  - Called “trust-busting”
- Some wanted to regulate big companies and prevent them from abusing power
  - Called “trust-regulating”
Social Welfare Progressives

- Want to fix problems like crime, illiteracy, alcohol abuse, child labor, health & safety of Americans

- Examples
  - Thanks to Spargo, child labor ends and compulsory education laws are passed
  - Passage of 18th and 19th amendments
  - Meat Inspection Act and Pure Food and Drug Act
  - Jane Addams creates settlement houses (Hull House in Chicago) to help immigrants
Social Welfare Progressives

• 1911: a fire swept through the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in NYC, and workers were trapped inside by doors that locked on the outside

• Reveals the need for building codes to eliminate fire hazards, unsafe machinery, and unsafe working conditions

• Zoning laws for towns that set standards for light, air, room size, sanitation, fire escapes, health codes in restaurants
Progressive Era Amendments

- All passed while Woodrow Wilson is president

- **Sixteenth Amendment** - allows government to collect an income tax

- **Seventeenth Amendment** - allows people to directly vote for Senators, instead of state legislatures
  - Makes senators more responsive to voters
  - What type of progressivism is this?
Eighteenth Amendment

- Alcohol has a negative effect on society
  - Little wages go to alcohol
  - Crimes from drunkards
  - Abuse on families
- Temperance movement wants to eliminate alcohol and saloons from society
- Women’s Christian Temperance Union
- Success with 18th amendment that calls for prohibition
Nineteenth Amendment

- Seneca Falls Convention in 1848
  - Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott
  - Want right to vote for women

- National American Woman Suffrage Association
  - Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Lucy Stone, Julia Ward Howe
    - Anthony arrested while trying to vote in Election of 1877
  - Alice Paul (eventually founds National Women’s Party) and Carrie Chapman Catt eventually become leaders

- Success with 19th amendment
WOMAN SUFFRAGE HEADQUARTERS.
MEN OF OHIO!
GIVE THE WOMEN A SQUARE DEAL
Vote For Amendment No. 23 On September 3-1912.

COME IN AND LEARN
WHY WOMEN OUGHT to Vote.
PRESIDENT WILSON SAYS:
"This is the time to support Woman Suffrage."
How to remember the amendments?

16th Amendment - income tax
Does

17th Amendment - direct election of senators
Does extremely stink

18th Amendment - Prohibition of alcohol
Prohibiting

19th Amendment - Women’s suffrage
Women from voting

Can you make any other acronyms??