Progressive Era Notes

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Newspaper Notes!

- You will be taking your notes this unit in the form of a newspaper - because of how important the press was during the Progressive Era.

- Some days you may be able to use laptops to get your information, but with interim tests I never know if I will have enough 😐

- You will eventually have four pieces of paper with your notes written on them, and you will staple them together before having me check them in order to give you completion points.

- 40 points total - 5 per points page, 8 sides on four pieces of paper.

- DO NOT LOSE THESE. If you do you will need to copy down all of the information from another student on a notebook piece of paper.
The Gilded Age:

- The **Gilded Age** was a time of great wealth in America in the late 1800s/early 1900s. Something “gilded” is gold-plated: nice and shiny on the outside, but could be terrible on the inside. Many Americans felt like this was a perfect metaphor of how our country was at the time, and therefore many wanted to make changes to it.
An Era of Reform:

- Many people during the Gilded Age swung into action to reform society - meaning, to change for the better.
- People who called for reform during this time were called “reformers.”
- Many African Americans, Native Americans, immigrants, and women called for reforms for improved treatment of their communities.
The Muckrakers:

- Some reformers during the Progressive Era were also called **muckrakers** - who were journalists that helped “dig up dirt” on problems in society and published stories about them in newspapers and magazines.

- “McClure's” magazine was popular with muckrakers.

- Muckrakers showed how powerful our Constitution’s 1st amendment is with freedom of the press.
What Problems Did America Have at This Time Period?

- With a partner - on a white board, come up with as many problems as you possibly can that America had around this time period (discrimination, factories, city life, etc.).

- You and your partner will then trade your whiteboard with another pair’s and put check marks next to the problems you listed. You can also add more problems to their board as well.

- We will then go around the room and volunteer answers!
Goals of Muckrakers During the Progressive Era:

- Breaking up monopolies and trusts (businesses that were too powerful and controlling)
- Getting rid of child labor
- Improving education for children and adults
- Kinder treatment of immigrants
- Getting rid of terrible working conditions in factories
- Preventing environmental pollution
Goals of Muckrakers During the Progressive Era:

- Stopping politicians being bribed and passing unfair laws
- Changing voting - adding privacy, and voting for women
- Lessening or eliminating racial discrimination
- Putting a stop to violence against African-Americans (by the KKK and others)
- Decreasing consumption of alcohol
- Promoting religion in America
Business Reform:

- What problems did businesses have during the Industrial Revolution?
Anti-Trusts:

- “Trusts” were created when one business could easily overpower and buy out another business.
- Companies like Standard Oil (run by John D. Rockefeller) used trusts to buy out any other companies that tried to compete with them.
- Muckrakers, like Ida Tarbell, wrote stories about trusts that educated the American people about them.
- Congress eventually passed laws, like the Clayton Antitrust Act of 1914, to prevent trusts being used to create monopolies.
Anti-Monopolies:
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Why would artists draw pictures of monopolies as being terrifying animals?
Child Labor Reform:

- Because of extremely low wages in the workplace many families sent their children to work to help the family get by.

- About 1.5 million children under age 15 worked in mines, mills, and factories in 1900.

- Many children were hurt or killed.

- Photos published by muckraker Lewis Hine eventually forced Congress to pass laws ending child labor in the US.
Education Reform:

- With children out of work, many states started to pass laws requiring children to attend school (at least through 5th grade)

- Schools were based off of factories - with bells, shifts, tasks to complete, and authority figures to respect - all to teach children about the workforce.

- After child labor ended more schools were built, more quality resources were created, and better teachers were hired.
Safety in the Workplace:

- After the tragic fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Company in New York City, the public expressed anger and outrage!

- A fire broke out when over 500 mostly immigrant women were preparing to leave for the day.

- The exit doors on the 10th floor of the building were locked and over 146 workers died from the fire, some jumping to their deaths to escape the smoke and heat.

- Because of this shocking case and others like it, reformers and muckrakers called for laws to be passed to guarantee workplace safety.
Reports from muckrakers also brought attention to workplace accidents.

In the year 1900 alone: 35,000 people were killed by industrial accidents, and another 500,000 were injured on the job.

Many states began to pass minimum wage laws, and maximum hours that could be worked per day/shift.

Laws were also passed requiring worker’s compensation - so that if a worker was injured they could receive both money and care.
Rise of Labor Organizations:

- Workers also began to unite together in unions to demand more respect and gain benefits from their bosses.

- A powerful union was the IWW (International Workers of the World) - a group that promoted “socialism” (the idea that workers should all own pieces of the businesses they work for).

- Workers in the IWW were known as “wobblies”, and were looked down on, harassed and even attacked for their socialist beliefs.
Political Reform:
Corruption in Politics:

- Powerful organizations called “political machines” influenced city and state politics.
- They used both legal and illegal ways to get candidates elected to office.
- Political machines would pay voters to vote their way, get only their candidates listed on ballots, and even bribe election officials to falsify election results.
- Political machines were run by powerful men called “bosses”, who became incredibly wealthy.
Corruption in Politics:

- Bosses of political machines got their support from immigrants by taking great care of them when no one else would.

- One of the most famous political bosses, William Marcy Tweed of New York City, reportedly stole as much as $50 million from the city’s Treasury during his time in power for himself.

- Tweed was part of “Tammany Hall” - the Democratic Party political machine that played a major role in controlling New York City politics from the 1790s to the 1960s.
Discussion:

If you were an immigrant living in New York City in 1900 would you have voted for people involved in political machines who took good care of you, even though they were corrupt? Why or why not?
Breaking Up Political Machines:

- Muckrakers reported on the corruption of political machines, just like trusts and monopolies.

- Instead of a few powerful people making decisions about laws, the public soon demanded ways they could break up political machines and control local and national politics.
Solving Corruption in Politics:

- The **17th Amendment** was passed in 1913 and allowed for Americans to vote directly for their Senators in Congress (*remember there are 2 senators from every state*)
Arizona’s Current Senators:

- John McCain
- Jeff Flake
Recall:

- **Recall:** Voters could now sign a petition asking for a special vote on an elected official. This allows voters to remove elected officials if they were not happy with them!

- Applies to people like governors, not Presidents.

- **Example:** In 1988, a recall was approved against Governor Evan Mecham of Arizona for misuse of money and potential racial discrimination, but he was impeached and convicted before it officially got on the ballot.
Referendum:

- **Referendum:** allows voters to sign a petition to vote on laws already in place.

- **Examples:** Arizona will vote on a referendum (Proposition 305) in November of 2018 asking voters whether parents of students with disabilities should be able to qualify for scholarship money (called ESAs) to use privately on their education, instead of sending their children to public schools.

- If voters vote “yes” then the scholarships stay, but if they vote “no” they will be eliminated.
**Initiative:**

- **Initiative:** this allows voters to propose new laws by getting signatures on a petition.

- **Examples:** Two initiatives were on the November 8, 2016, ballot in Arizona:
  - **Proposition 205,** which would have legalized recreational marijuana, and **Proposition 206,** which increased the minimum wage to $12 and guaranteed paid sick time.
  - **Proposition 205** was defeated, and **Proposition 206** was approved.
City Reform
Problems in Cities:

- There were many problems in urban (city) society.
- City problems were caused by things like urbanization, growth of the middle class, bad working conditions in factories, rise of powerful corporations (monopolies), and increase in immigration.
- New jobs/profession emerge to help the cities: jobs like city planners and civil engineers.
Photo Evidence:

Photographer Jacob Riis took photos of people living in tenements and published them in a book entitled “How The Other Half Lives” which inspired the rich to donate money to help the poor, and improve city life.
Housing:

- Tenements were completely redesigned, and often torn down and rebuilt.
- New requirements were made for all city housing: indoor plumbing, windows, safe building materials (stone instead of wood), safety features (like fire escapes), limits on numbers of people and animals living in them.
Civil Service/Safety:

- Police officers and firefighters began to be hired and trained, leading to a major increase in safety in city life.

- No longer did political machines influence who got a job - Civil Service tests determined who was most qualified!
Transportation:

- More public transportation systems were built and paid for through taxes.
- Above ground: trolley cars and railroad stations were built.
- Below ground: more advanced subway systems.
- Easier transport allowed more people to work.
Shopping:

- First ever shopping centers and restaurants were built.
- Frank W. Woolworth created first “dollar stores” for the poor - with fixed prices instead of need for bargaining.
- Woolworth also pioneered display cases - so people could “window shop” for what they wanted to buy.
Sanitation:

- More indoor plumbing was installed, as well as city-wide sewer systems.
- Garbage removal became a popular business, and cities suddenly looked and smelled a lot cleaner.
- Laws were passed against littering, and the streets look cleaner - which helped people’s morale.
Parks:

- Frederick Olmsted designed Central Park in New York City and other city park systems.
- Being in some amount of nature increases public happiness.
- More trees helped with air and noise pollution.
City Reform:

- When cities became cleaner, people became happier.
- Happier people = more productive people, who feel like they are actually being cared for.
- Pride in America increases - important going forward in history!
Religious Reform
America’s “Corruptness”

- By 1900 there were more bars and saloons per square mile in America than there were churches.
- Many religious reformers felt that the American people had become corrupt with the greed of the Gilded Age, and set out to make changes.
- Religious reformers wanted to set examples of helping those in need, and eliminating problems that they saw as keeping people away from church.
Temperance Movement:

- One reform group: the “Temperance movement”, blamed alcohol for many of society’s problems.

- Women played a vital role in the reform of religion and created the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) - who called for a ban of all alcohol in the US.

- A leading reformer in this movement was a woman named Carry A. Nation who would storm into saloons and smash liquor bottles with a hatchet.
Which gets your vote
Mother or the Saloon?
Vote Dry

Don't let the Saloon
Have a chance at us

Woman's Christian
Temperance Union
Pledge
I hereby solemnly promise, God helping me, to abstain from all distilled, fermented and malt liquors, including wine, beer and cider; and to employ all proper means to discourage the use of and traffic in the same.

Name: Mrs. Agnes Cole
Date: 24-11-17
Discussion Question:

- Do you think Carry A. Nation went too far in using violence to try and get rid of alcohol?
- Why or why not?
Settlement House Movement:

- Another reform group was the “Settlement House movement” - which wanted to help immigrants feel more welcome in America.

- Jane Addams ran a settlement house in Chicago called Hull House and helped thousands of immigrants - particularly young children - learn to read, write and master skills that would help them get good jobs in the future.
The Salvation Army was created in the Progressive Era as a religious group to help the poor - by cleaning up slums with groups of people called “Slum Brigades”, giving out soup in soup kitchens and looking after young children in nurseries so parents could go find work.
YMCA

The Young Men’s Christian Association was founded to give young adult men (who were at risk of living a life of crime out on the streets) access to things like education, fitness and learning new skills.

Society realized if you trained young people and put them to work, much more could be built - and they would feel grateful for contributing to their communities.
YMCA Song/Dance

- A song about the “YMCA” became a hugely popular disco song in the late 1970s, and soon a dance associated with it became widely known around the world.

- In 2009, "YMCA" was entered into the Guinness World Book of Records when over 44,000 people danced to the song at the 2008 Sun Bowl game in El Paso, Texas.
Social Reform:
The Rights of Women and Minorities:

- At the turn of the Twentieth Century (the 1900s) both women and African-Americans wanted improved rights and representation in America.
Women’s Suffrage Movement:

- Many women wanted more rights, including the right to vote - called **suffrage**.
- **Susan B. Anthony** was a major suffragette who campaigned for women’s rights her entire life, and even had herself arrested for illegally voting.
Declaration of Sentiments:

- At a women’s rights convention in 1848 in Seneca Falls, New York a revised edition of the Declaration of Independence was read out by Elizabeth Cady Stanton (a close friend of Susan B. Anthony).

- “We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men and women are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”
Women’s Suffrage Movement:

- Suffragist efforts paid off when the 19th amendment was passed in 1920 and granted all women in the U.S. the right to vote.

- There is a worry, however, among women of color - that white women will continue voting for laws that are discriminatory towards minority groups.

- The big question becomes: will women care more about their race or their gender when voting?
Women voting in the 2016 Presidential Election:

- Black women: 92% Clinton 5% Trump
- Hispanic women: 66% Clinton 27% Trump
- White women: 44% Clinton 53% Trump

Many people wondered whether women would vote for Clinton solely based on her gender. Polls showed Clinton won majorities of votes from all groups of women, except white women.

Some minorities groups saw this as their ultimate fears realized - that white women voted more for their race than their gender.

However, when it comes to issues like this, many women feel they shouldn’t vote for a candidate just because they are also a woman. They need to agree with their beliefs as well.
African Americans fight for change:

- After slavery ended in 1865 there was still many problems for African Americans, including discrimination and violence.
- One of the biggest issues was lynching - being attacked and_hanged by racist whites/members of the KKK.
- Ida B. Wells was a muckraker in the South that wrote many articles drawing attention to the violent lynching in the south of black men.
1892

I bought a pistol...
I felt that one had better
die fighting against injustice
than to die like a dog or
a rat in a trap.

I had determined to sell my life
as dearly as possible if attacked.

They had destroyed
my paper...
They had made me an
exile and threatened
my life for hinting at
the truth.

I felt that I owed it
to myself and my
race to tell the
whole truth.

--Ida B. Wells
African Americans fight for change:

- **Booker T. Washington** was an African-American reformer who worked hard to help fight against oppression.

- Washington was born a slave in the South, and worked hard in school to become successful.

- Washington created the **Tuskegee Institute, an all black college**, to help African-Americans learn academics and skills.

- Washington argued that blacks needed to be self-reliant if whites weren’t going to help them.
African Americans fight for change:

- **W.E.B. Du Bois** was another African-American reformer who differed from Booker T. Washington in a number of ways.

- Du Bois was raised in a wealthy and tolerant neighborhood in Massachusetts, and became the first African-American to earn a doctorate from Harvard.

- Du Bois founded the NAACP, and organized peaceful protests.

- Du Bois argued that blacks and whites needed to work together to achieve equality.
NAACP:

- Du Bois helped found the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).
- The NAACP worked to end discrimination and bring down the oppressive Jim Crow Laws and end segregation in the South.
- What is seen as the largest failure of the Progressive Era is that civil rights for African Americans were not created for another 50 years.
STARTING IN 1920
THE NAACP WOULD
HANG A BANNER
FROM ITS NYC OFFICE
@ 69 5TH AVENUE
THE DAY AFTER A
LYNCHING OCCURRED.
THEY STOPPED IN 1938
UNDER THREAT OF
 LOSING THEIR LEASE.

A MAN WAS
LYNCHED
YESTERDAY

2014
Presidential Reform:
Many Americans were angry.

The 25th President of the US, William McKinley, had not stood up to trusts or monopolies - and the public were not happy with him.

Many also felt that McKinley had only won because the robber barons, like Carnegie and Rockefeller, had not liked his competition - William Jennings Bryan - and had spent their money on his campaign to ensure that we would win.
Public Anger Over Presidents:

- William Jennings Bryan was a **Populist** - someone who genuinely cared about the public’s interest, who didn’t represent the business or government norm.
Theodore Roosevelt:

- Theodore “Teddy” Roosevelt became America’s 26th President after the assassination of William McKinley. He was also re-elected for a second term.

- Roosevelt pushed for a Square Deal, where everyone’s (businessmen, workers, and consumers) rights would be balanced for the public good.

- The Square Deal was proposed involving 3 C’s - controlling corporations, consumer protections and conservation.
Conservation:

- As a supporter of the conservation movement that worked to protect our nation’s natural resources, Roosevelt protected over 150 million acres of land by declaring it federally (government) protected.

- This today is known as our National Parks System - which is made up of places like the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, Niagara Falls, the Badlands in South Dakota, the Florida Everglades, etc.
“Teddy” Bears:

- Roosevelt loved the outdoors, and was an avid hunter.
- A story was published in 1902 which told of Roosevelt becoming angered by the sight of a bear that had been wounded by hunters, but not killed - just so he would have the chance to kill it.
- Roosevelt’s compassion for the bear led to a toy company in NY to create a “Teddy bear” in his honor - which then became insanely popular with children!
William Howard Taft:

- Taft was the 27th President, and continued Roosevelt’s actions of busting up trusts, and adding more lands to the National Parks System for protection.

- Had a myth about him getting stuck in a bath tub due to this weight of 350 pounds.

- Taft lost his re-election bid to Woodrow Wilson in 1912 in a three way race between Taft, Wilson, and Roosevelt - who was part of a new political party.
Bull Moose Party:

- A former US political party - also called the Progressive Party, which nominated Roosevelt for Presidential re-election.

- Roosevelt waged an energetic campaign to be re-elected in 1912, during the course of which he was shot by an insane man in Milwaukee, Wisconsin while on his way to make a speech.

- Roosevelt went ahead with his address, telling the crowd that he had a bullet in his body but assuring them that “it takes more than that to kill a Bull Moose.”
Woodrow Wilson:

- Woodrow Wilson, the 28th President, helped pass the 16th Amendment in 1913 which allowed the federal government to tax American’s personal income.

- This amendment provided a new source of income for the federal government, and forced robber barons like Rockefeller to contribute to the government in a non corrupt way.

- Question then debated: Should rich people have a higher tax rate?
Tax Debate:

- Example: If someone makes $50,000 a year and they have a 3% income tax rate, they pay $1,500 to the government.

- If someone makes $250,000 a year and they have a 3% income tax rate, they pay $7,500 to the government.

- Some, however, feel that the rich should pay a higher rate. So, let’s say you raised the income tax rate of the person earning $250,000 a year to 6% - they would then pay $15,500.

- So, should the rich pay a higher tax rate because they earn more? Or should everyone pay they same rate?
Woodrow Wilson:

- Wilson eventually leads America through World War I - which puts an end to the Progressive Era.

- Start thinking about this Progressive Era as a whole: how much did we achieve in making American society better? How much did we not accomplish?

- Also, if you were a millionaire during this time period and wanted to help the muckrakers and other reformers - what specific causes would you donate your money to?