

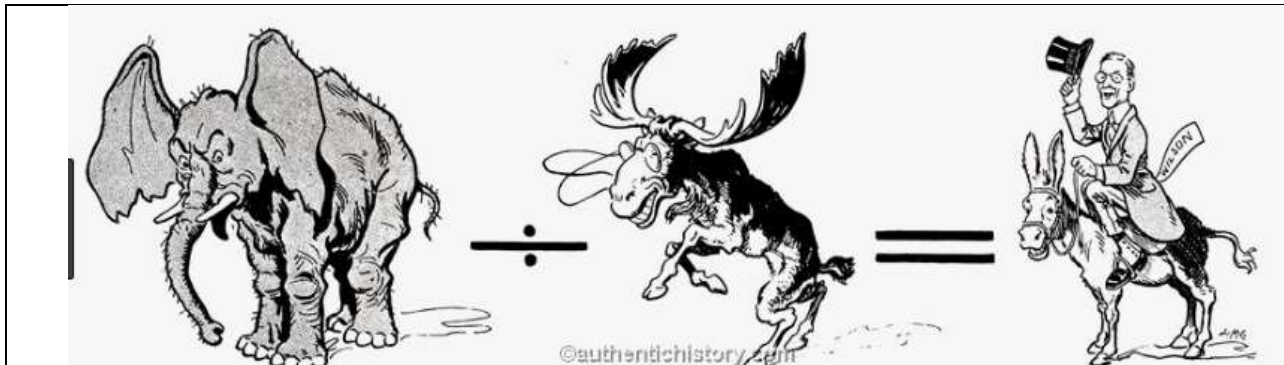
## Progressive Presidents Packet

### Chronology of Major Events

- 1883 Civil Service Act
- 1890 Jacob Riis publishes *How the Other Half Lives*
- 1904 Ida Tarbell Publishes *History of Standard Oil*
- 1906 Upton Sinclair publishes *The Jungle*
- 1906 Pure Food and Drug Act passes
- 1906 Meat Inspection Act passes
- 1908 President Roosevelt calls national conservation conference
- 1913 16<sup>th</sup> Amendment sets up federal income tax
- 1913 17<sup>th</sup> Amendment calls for direct election of U.S. senators
- 1916 Keating Owens Act limits child labor
- 1917 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment prohibits making or selling alcoholic drinks
- 1920 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment gives women the right to vote

1. Answer A, B, & C:

- a. Which area did Progressive Era reform had the biggest impact on American Society.
  - i. Political
  - ii. Social
  - iii. Economic
- b. Cite ONE specific piece of evidence to support your claim in A.
- c. Make an argument for why another Progressive Era reform is a better choice.



Explain the cartoon above:

**Source:** John Muir, "The American Forests," Atlantic Monthly, August, 1897.

The forest reserves of the United States went from approximately 43,000,000 acres to about 194,000,000 acres under Progressive president, Theodore Roosevelt. This represents an increase of over 400%. The area of forest reserves established by Theodore Roosevelt is equal in acreage to all the states on the Atlantic coast from Maine to Virginia plus the states of Vermont, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. This is a greater area than France, Belgium, and The Netherlands combined.

He was also able to preserve some sixteen million of acres of land that would have been exploited by land grabbers and the representatives of the great special interests, at the expense of the public interest for future generations. He stated "There can be nothing in the world more beautiful than the Yosemite, the groves of giant sequoias and redwoods, the Canyon of the Colorado, the Canyon of the Yellowstone, the Three Tetons; and our people should see to it that they are preserved for their children and their children's children forever, with their majestic beauty all unmarred."

Historical Context	
Intended Audience	
Purpose	
Point of View	

Progressive Business Reforms

The early progressives identified political and social problems that made individual or local efforts to fix them. The progressive movement provided one of the best examples of Americans attempting to overcome problems through reform. The demand for reform was due to such causes as oppression of the workers, little government interference in business practices, government corruption, and other social injustices. Generally reform movements like the one in the Progressive era are based on the belief that society can be made better.

**Interstate Commerce Act- 1887**

Early on, many American businesses operated with little regulations from the government. However, change was on horizon around the late 1800's. One of the first changes made in the relationship between business and government was the regulation of railroad practices. Early on, railroad's sometimes charged local farmers more to haul their crops over short distances

than they charged for large companies to ship goods longer distance's on more competitive national routes. Some states passed laws prohibiting this practice, but the US Supreme Court said this was unconstitutional. The Court said that only Congress had the power to regulate interstate (*between states*) commerce (*business*). So in 1887 Congress passed the Interstate Commerce Act. This federal law now prohibited unfair practices by railroad companies, such as charging higher rates for shorter routes. The law even created an agency, Interstate Commerce Commission, to enforce the Act. This was the first example of government regulating private business in America.

### **The Pure Food and Drug Act- 1906**

Progressive Presidents during this time were also concerned with protecting consumers in America. So in 1906 two key laws were passed under T. Roosevelt: The Meat inspection Act & the Pure Food and Drug Act. The first Act was a response to muckraker's accounts of unsanitary meatpacking plants. Now all meat that in the U.S. was first inspected by the government before it could be sold. This was to ensure that things like rats and poisoned bread did not end up in the sold meat. The Pure Food and Drug Act established a new Agency, Food and Drug Administration or F.D.A. to test and approve all food and drugs before they were sold. This was to ensure that products were not mislabeled or falsely advertising ingredients or cures.

### **Department of Labor- 1913**

In 1911, public attitudes began to shift towards labor unions after the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire. In this horrific accident 146 garment workers were killed because the doors to the factory were bolted shut from the outside each work day, there were no sprinklers in the building, and it had only one inadequate fire escape. In response, Congress passed legislation that was sympathetic to unions but it also created separate Cabinet post, the Department of Labor in 1913, which studied the problems of labor. This cabinet post was to "promote and develop the welfare of working people, and to improve their working conditions". This was yet another example of change in the relationship of government and private business in that Government was now paying attention to the treatment of laborers.

### **Clayton Antitrust Act - 1914**

Previous to 1914, the Sherman Anti-trust Act tried to stop monopolies from engaging in unfair practices that prevented fair completion in business. However, the law was very vague and unclear. Further Progressive reforms were heard in 1914 with the passage of the Clayton Anti-trust Act. This law extended the power of the government in private business affairs by laying out specific rules that made it harder for trusts to form and to squeeze out competition. For example, it was now illegal to lower prices in one regional market but not another. In addition, the Federal Trade Commission was created to regulate and monitor private business.

### **Child Labor Act 1916-**

Progressive President Wilson expanded worker protection with specific regard to children. In 1916, he signed the Child Labor Act which prohibited companies involved in interstate commerce from hiring workers under 14 years of age. Although the law protected fewer than 10% of children in the workforce, it set minimum protections and opened the door for future government regulation in business hiring and working practices. Previous to this law child labor abuse was only investigated by the government. There were no laws regulating how businesses were to treat or hire child laborers.

### **Federal Reserve Act 1913-**

Progressives also wanted government to stabilize the banking system. This they hoped would reduce many of the financial panics, which frequently plagued the country and often triggered economic depressions. In 1913 Congress passed the Federal Reserve Act which divided the nation up into 12 regions, each with a Federal Reserve Bank. These banks make up the central bank of the US. Under this system the private banks remain independent, but agree to operate under the rules of the Federal Reserve System, or the “The Fed”. The Fed set monetary policy to regulate the amount of money that goes into circulation around the nation. It also offers a safety net to private banks by lending them money if they are short of funds. They also determine how much a bank can loan out to people and business and set interest rate for companies and people that borrow money.

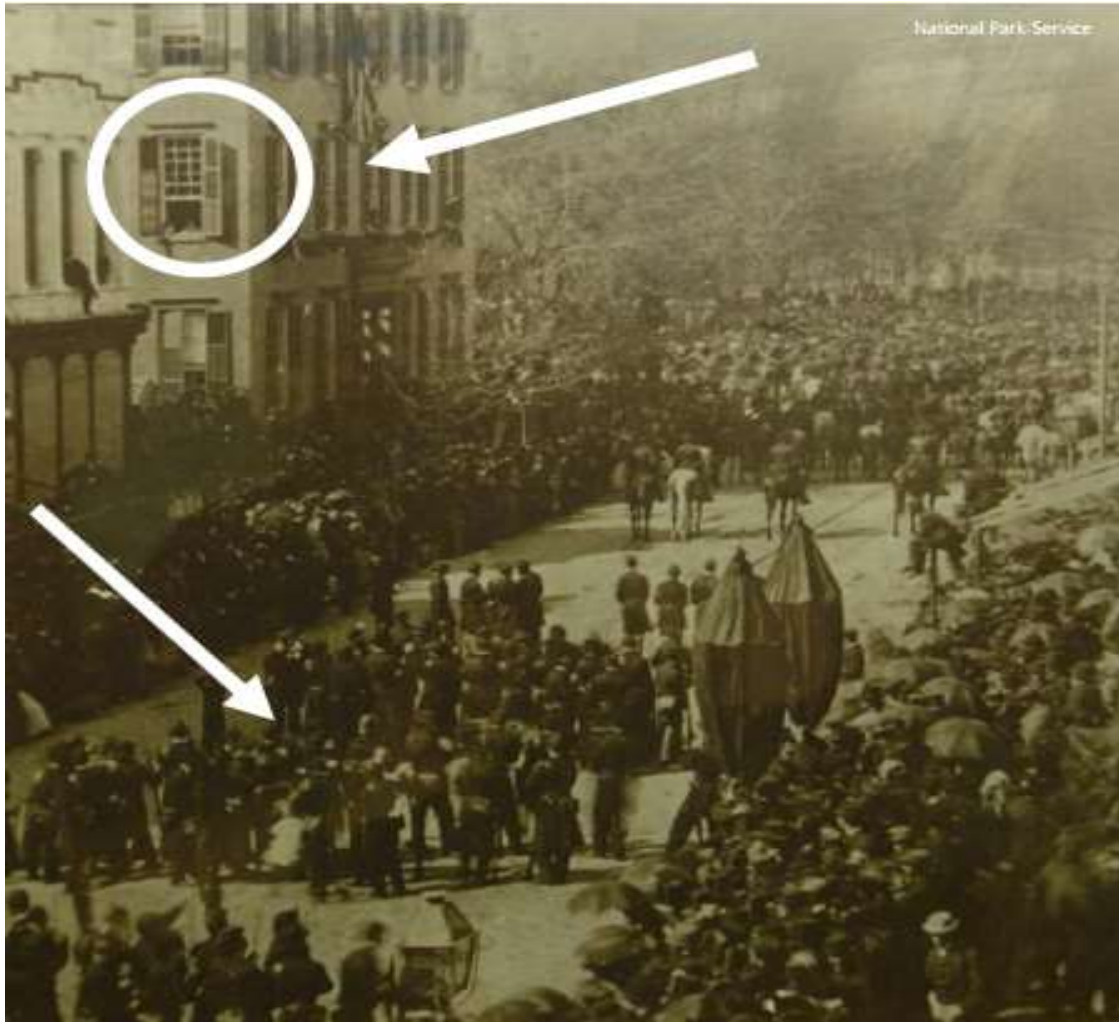
1. How did the Progressive Presidents and legislation reform/change/impact businesses in the United States? (6-8 Sentences) (Cite Information)



Explain the meaning of the cartoon:



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1. In the image above, Teddy Roosevelt is one of the children in the window that is circled. The procession below is of Abraham Lincoln's coffin and body. People have considered Roosevelt as a great President in the way that many have considered Lincoln the same. Write a 10-15 sentence paragraph response evaluating the validity of this statement. Cite evidence in your explanation.