The Gilded Age & The Progressive Movement

Gilded Age
Time in the late 1800s and early 1900s when the US and its cities seemed nice on the outside, but had lots of problems on the inside.

Progressive Movement
A movement by reformers to improve society. These reforms included change in government, business and society.

BRAINSTORM: WHAT PROBLEMS EXISTED IN CITIES AND IN THE UNITED STATES DURING THE GILDED AGE?

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Muckrakers

Define muckraker:

Journalists who wrote newspaper and magazine stories that brought problems to the attention of the public.

Examples:

- Jacob Riis: Photographed and wrote about the poor and living conditions in the cities in his book How the Other Half Lives
- Upton Sinclair: Wrote The Jungle, which described the horrors of the meatpacking industry.
- Ida Tarbell: Wrote about the unfair practices of the Standard Oil Company. Led to public pressure for the government to get involved.
Reformers

Define reformer:
A person that wants to bring change to improve society.

Define progressive:
The same thing as a reformer. During this time period, progressives wanted to fix the problems that they saw in society, many of which they believed were caused by rapid industrialization.

Examples:
Jane Addams; founded Hull House to help poor immigrants. This became a model for other settlement houses.

Susan B. Anthony & Elizabeth Cady Stanton: formed the National Woman Suffrage Association to try to get the vote for women. Other suffragists included Alice Paul and Carrie Chapman Catt.

Corruption in Politics

- What factors led to the rise of political machines?
  New demands were put on city governments for city services (fire, police, sewage, water, etc.). Taxes increased and new offices were set up to help with these.

- Define political machines (in your own words). Use 7 words or less.
  The organization that helps run a political party and keep its members in office.

- Draw a picture representing the pyramid of political machines.
  Label the parts.
  Top – City boss
  Ward boss
  Captains
  Bottom – Precinct Workers

- What were the positives and negatives of political machines? List the items.

  Positives:
  Provided food, clothing and temporary shelter to the poor. Created public-works projects.
  Provided support to immigrants.

  Negatives:
  Very greedy and corrupt. Accepted kickbacks (an arrangement in which contractors padded the amount of their bill for city work and paid a percentage to the bosses) and bribes. Stole millions in taxpayer dollars. Involved in voting fraud.
List 5 ways that reformers tried to improve politics. (Hint: don’t forget to think about the essential vocabulary!)

1. They exposed the corruption of political machines and politicians in the newspaper, magazines and political cartoons.
2. They took the utilities out of the hands of private companies and put them in the hands of the government.
3. They started using secret ballots to vote.
4. The 17th Amendment was passed that allowed Americans to vote directly for US Senators.
5. The Pendleton Civil Service Act was passed that required some federal jobs to be based on an exam.
6. Recall: If enough voters signed a petition, the public could vote to remove someone from office.
7. Initiative: voters had the ability to propose new laws.
8. Referendum: Voters could approve or disapprove of legislation already proposed by a state or local government.
9. Primary: Voters were allowed to choose candidates for office, instead of the political machine doing it.
- What do you believe was the most significant achievement of reformers in the area of politics? Explain why you believe this.
  
  *Opinion*

- Look at your concept map. You should be able to answer all of the questions in the first column and know all of the vocabulary words. If you do not, check your notes. Is there information from the reading that you should add to your notes to help you to know these in the future?

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**How do we change working conditions?**

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**A NEW ECONOMIC SYSTEM?**

Some union members had more radical ideas and thought that the system of capitalism was unfair. They supported a new system called *socialism*:

> A system in which the government owns the businesses, sets the prices and sets the wages.

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The public did not demand other changes in the workplace until events like the *Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire*: Over 100 workers were killed in a tragic fire because the doors of the factory were locked and there were not enough fire safety rules in place. This outraged the public and led to the demand for safer working conditions.

*Other workplace changes that followed:* Soon, laws that enforced an 8 Hour workday, child labor laws, workers compensation, and minimum wage laws were passed.
THEODORE ROOSEVELT: A PROGRESSIVE PRESIDENT

- **Square Deal**
  - The interests of business, labor and consumers should be balanced for the public good. Fair and equal treatment for all.

- **Trustbuster**
  - Nickname for Roosevelt, who tried to break up many trusts.

- **Teddy Roosevelt**

- **Tenement House Law**
  - NYC law that outlawed construction of unsafe houses

- **Settlement Houses**
  - Aid to immigrants (for example, Hull House run by Jane Addams)

- **Building/Zoning Codes**
  - Construction rules

- **Garbage, Police, Fire, and Transportation departments**
  - Created to improve conditions

- **School became mandatory**

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**Clayton Anti-trust Act**
- Limit Monopolies and regulate businesses for the good of the public.

**Describe the improvements to city life that occurred during the Progressive Era.**
- Tenement House Law: NYC law that outlawed construction of unsafe houses
- Settlement Houses: aid to immigrants (for example, Hull House run by Jane Addams)
- Building/Zoning Codes: Construction rules
- Garbage, Police, Fire and Transportation departments created to improve conditions
- School became mandatory
What was blamed for many of the problems in the cities?
Alcohol

Temperance Movement:
Argued that alcohol was to blame for many of society's problems.

Prohibition: The passing of laws to prohibit the making or selling of alcohol.

18th Amendment
Made it illegal to make, transport or sell alcohol in the US

Improvements for Minorities

What problems did women have?
They had no voice in politics because they could not vote.

19th Amendment
Gave women the right to vote

What problems did African Americans face?
Discrimination and segregation

How did they attempt to fix these problems?
Women's rights groups were created to fight for equal rights and suffrage: National Woman's Party and National American Women Suffrage Association
Women such as Susan B Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Alice Paul led the movement.
Methods used to bring attention to their cause: petitions, letters to Congressmen, parades, picketing, civil disobedience, hunger strikes

How did they attempt to fix these problems?
NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People):
Group formed to gain rights and equality for African Americans