The Progressive Movement

What does progress mean?

- According to dictionary.com, the word progress means,
  - a movement toward a goal or to a further or higher stage;
  - advancement in general;
  - growth or development;
  - the development of an individual or society in a direction considered more beneficial than and superior to the previous level.
The Progressive Movement

- The progressive movement began in the late 19th century (1890s) and continued until WWI.
- It was a time of great social change, when people began to address their concerns about rampant corruption in the U.S. government and ills of society.
- Muckrakers, or journalists who worked to expose abuses of corporate power, helped to gather public support for regulation and reform during the Progressive Era.
The Progressive Movement

• Think about this way, people wanted accountability. Yes, the country was growing at a tremendous rate but people were still being taken advantage of.
• We already discussed some legislation that fought against big business.
• Labor unions were very influential in creating change.
• Can anyone describe what a labor union is and what is the main focus?
Knights of Labor (KoL)

- This group, which peaked membership in 1886, grew rapidly because of a combination of their **open-membership policy**, the continuing industrialization of the American economy, and the growth of urban population;
  - welcomed unskilled and semiskilled workers, including women, immigrants, and African Americans;
- Were idealists who believed they could eliminate conflict between labor and managements.
- Their goal was to create a cooperative society in which laborers owned the industries in which they worked.
- **Terence V. Powderly** was the leader at both the peak and decline of its membership.
American Federation of Labor

The A.F. of L. was a loose grouping of smaller craft unions, such as the masons' union, the hatmakers' union or cigarmakers' union. **Samuel Gompers was the founder.**

- Concentrated on bread and butter issues such as higher wages, shorter hours, and better working conditions.
- Every member of the A.F. of L. was a skilled worker.
The Progressive Movement

Samuel Gompers

- He was a diehard capitalist and saw no need for a radical restructuring of America.
- Gompers had no visions of uniting the entire working class.
- Gompers knew that the A.F. of L. would have more political and economic power if unskilled workers were excluded.
- The members of the A.F. of L. were almost exclusively skilled white males.
- Gompers maintained the support of the American government and public.
The Progressive Movement

STOP & JOT:
Why did Samuel Gompers and the American Federation of Labor have the support of the government and the public???
The Progressive Movement

Industrial Workers of the World

- Led by “Mother” Jones and Eugene Debs
- Strove to unite all laborers including unskilled workers and African Americans.
- Goal was to create “One Big Union”
- Embraced the rhetoric of class conflict and endorsed violent tactics.
Eugene Debs

- Labor leader who helped organize Pullman Strike; later became socialist leader and presidential candidate.
- Some historians label him as the father of the Socialist party in America.
- [Visit History.com](http://www.history.com/topics/eugene-debs/videos/history-of-labor-day) for more information.
The Progressive Movement

Great Railroad Strike of 1877

- Also known as the Great Strike of 1877 or just the Great Strike
- The country's first major rail strike and witnessed the first general strike in the nation's history
- Railroad workers went on strike in response to wage cuts.
- The railroads shut down, this harmed the U.S. economy.
- Why or how???
The Progressive Movement

Homestead Strike 1892

- One of the most violent strikes in U.S. history
- It was against the Homestead Steel Works, which was part of the Carnegie Steel Company, in Pennsylvania in retaliation against wage cuts.
- The riot was ultimately put down by the Pinkerton police and the state militia.
- The violence further damaged the image of unions.
- http://www.history.com/topics/labor/videos/homestead-strike?m=528e394da93ae&s=undefined&f=1&free=false
The Progressive Movement

Pullman Strike

- A **1894** strike by **railroad workers** upset by drastic wage cuts.
- The strike was led by socialist Eugene Debs but not supported by the American Federation of Labor.
- Eventually President Grover Cleveland intervened and federal troops forced an end to the strike.
- **The strike highlighted** both divisions within labor and the government's new willingness to use armed force to combat work stoppages.
- **The railroads shut down,** this harmed the U.S. economy.
The Progressive Movement

Haymarket Square Riot

• This was a riot led by the Knights of Labor in Chicago.
• It began as an attempt to secure an 8 hour work day.
• 12 people were killed when an anarchist threw a bomb into a column of policemen.
• This act of violence was linked to the Knights of Labor and was a major setback to their cause.
• The public’s view on labor unions was affected because of this riot & the government used this to their advantage.
• Can anyone explain what is meant by the above bullet point?
Progressive Movement Crash Course

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i0Q4zPR4G7M
EXIT TICKET

How did the Haymarket Square Riot impact the United States?

A. It brought attention to workers’ demands and led to an increase of support
B. It led to the formation of the American Federation of Labor and Knights of Labor
C. It caused President Grover Cleveland to send in troops for the first time
D. It led to negative publicity towards immigrants and labor unions because of violence
Speaker A: “The business of America is business, and we would be wise to remember that.”
Speaker B: “Government ownership of business is superior to private enterprise.”
Speaker C: “Strict government regulation of business practices is a means to insure the public good.”
Speaker D: “Only through personal effort can wealth and success be achieved.”

_____ Which speaker would most likely have supported the ideas of the Progressive movement?
A. Speaker A  
B. Speaker B  
C. Speaker C  
D. Speaker D
Children were preferred for labor because factory owners knew that younger workers would be more manageable, cheaper, and less likely to strike, revolt, or even directly complain. They treated them harshly and made them do labor that was like slave work. They defended themselves by saying that they provided shelter, food and clothes to orphans, even though none of these things were up to par. As factories arose, the need for a cheap labor force also developed. However, the slaves that America had once relied on had been emancipated, so children quickly became the next victims of society’s dark side. Children were often chosen to do the most dangerous jobs because of their nimble fingers and small bodies. Many children were primarily hired to repair factory machines; work which quite often ended in loss of limb.
The Progressive Movement

Working Conditions

- **Working conditions were poor**, workers were prevented from any sort of leisure, and the newly introduced machinery sort of functioned as a metronome for the pace at which the workers must be working.

- **The work was unsafe** and workers often got hurt and some were killed on the job.

- **Pay was miniscule** at best.

- Workers would get paid $8-$10 a week or about 10 cents per hour.

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KHmqEqJN590](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KHmqEqJN590)
The Progressive Movement

Triangle Shirtwaist factory fire

- On March 25, 1911, the Triangle Shirtwaist Company factory in New York City burned, killing 145 workers.
- It is remembered as one of the most infamous incidents in American industrial history, as the deaths were largely preventable—most of the victims died as a result of neglected safety features and locked doors within the factory building.
- The tragedy brought widespread attention to the dangerous sweatshop conditions of factories, and led to the development of a series of laws and regulations that better protected the safety of workers.
The number of those who felt the American capitalist system was fundamentally flawed was in fact growing fast.

American socialists based their beliefs on the writings of Karl Marx, the German philosopher.

Many asked why so many working Americans should have so little while a few owners grew incredibly wealthy.

No wealth could exist without the sweat and blood of its workforce.

They suggested that the government should own all industries and divide the profits among those who actually created the products.

Who is regarded as the father of the American socialist party?
The Progressive Movement

Mother Jones

- Mother Jones- Mary Harris Jones (aka "Mother Jones") was a union activist.
- **Was a labor and social reformer.**
- She founded the Social Democratic Party, and helped establish the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW).
- Supported striking railroad workers in Pittsburg and traveled around the country organizing coal miners and campaigning for improved working conditions.
- **Helped pave the way for reform.**
The Progressive Movement

Florence Kelley

- Similar to Mother Jones as **she was also a labor and social reformer.**
- She battled for the welfare of women, children, African Americans and consumers.
- She worked at the Hull House for a number of years.'
- Where was the Hull House located???
- She would go on to fight for women’s suffrage but our focus on her will be her battle against the atrocities of the life of laborers.
The Progressive Movement

Ida Tarbell

- Was an American journalist best known for her pioneering investigative reporting (muckraker).
- Tarbell exposed unfair practices of the Standard Oil Company, leading to a U.S. Supreme Court decision to break its monopoly.
The Progressive Movement

**Upton Sinclair**
- Was another *muckraker* whose works, including 'The Jungle' and 'Boston,' often uncovered social injustices.
- He shocked the nation with his novel that revealed gruesome details about the meat packing industry in Chicago.
- The book was fiction but based on the things that Sinclair had seen.
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xxe9nosWawM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xxe9nosWawM)
Mother Jones and Florence Kelley could both be described as important:

A. Fighters for women’s suffrage
B. Muckrakers
C. Labor reformers
D. Conservationists
The Progressive Movement

Trust Busting

- Defined as *any government activity designed to break up trusts or monopolies.*
- **Teddy Roosevelt** is the U.S. president most associated with dissolving trusts.
- However, William Howard Taft signed twice as much trust-busting legislation during his presidency.
The Progressive Movement

Conservation

- A movement in America to begin preserving natural resources and stop the rapid destruction of these resources and land.
- Teddy Roosevelt was known as the “environmental” or “conservationist” President.
- The environment was being ignored by the majority of people.
- Roosevelt knew that our resources were not endless and wanted to preserve them.
- He set aside 148 million acres of forest reserves and established over 50 wildlife sanctuaries and many national parks.
The Progressive Movement

Municipal Reforms

- Changes in city governments made to encourage greater efficiency, honesty, and responsiveness. Residents, particularly middle-class businessmen, organized against the corruption and inefficiency that they thought plagued their cities.

- This movement was particularly strong in cities controlled by political machines, the undemocratic and corrupt arrangements through which bosses could profit by controlling city governments.
The Progressive Movement

Direct Primary

- A method in which voters can directly vote for their party's candidates introduced by Robert La Follette.
- Previously, Republicans and Democrats nominated candidates in conventions and the public would not get to vote for the candidates.
- Would lead to the 17th amendment of the Constitution.
The Progressive Movement

**Initiative**

- The people have *the right to propose a new law*.
- There is a process to follow *but anyone can get an item or a proposal onto a ballot for the general public to vote on*.
- An initiative can be either direct or indirect in regards to how it is brought through the process.
The Progressive Movement

Referendum

- A law passed by the legislature can be reference to the people for approval/veto.
- Remember, the people did not always have a say or a vote.
- Politicians used to make ALL the decisions.
The Progressive Movement

**Recall**

- The recall was an effort to limit the power of party and improve the quality of elected officials.
- **It gave voters the right to remove a public official from office** at a special election, which could be called after a sufficient number of citizens had signed a petition.
The Progressive Movement

Women’s Suffrage Movement

- Reform groups were proliferating across the United States—temperance clubs, religious movements and moral-reform societies, anti-slavery organizations—and in many of these, women played a prominent role.
- Women should have the right to vote.
- In 1890 the two groups merged to form the National American Woman Suffrage Association.
- Would eventually lead to the 19th Amendment
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HGEMscZE5dY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HGEMscZE5dY) amendment
Which of the following is the MOST important effect of the Progressive Era reforms of initiative, referendum and recall?

A. Made government more responsive to voters
B. Restructured the government branches
C. Increased the power of the judicial branch
D. Provided for use of the Australian ballot
The Progressive Movement

Alice Paul

• **Women suffragist, feminist and a women’s right activist.**

• She was also the main leader of the 1910 campaign for the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and organized the Sentinels protest group.

• She served as the leader of the National Woman’s Party for 50 years.

Carrie Chapman Catt

- Also a **woman’s suffragist**.
- Instrumental to the cause that brought equal voting rights to U.S. citizens.
- A teacher and then superintendent of schools in Iowa, Catt became involved in the women’s suffrage movement in the 1880s.
- She served as **president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA)** from 1900 to 1904 and again from 1915 to 1920, spearheading the movement with her ability to organize campaigns, mobilize volunteers and **deliver effective speeches**.
- Shortly before the suffragists celebrated victory with passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920, Catt founded the **League of Women Voters**.
The Progressive Movement

Meat Inspection Act

- Passed in 1906 largely in reaction to Upton Sinclair’s *The Jungle*, the law set strict standards of cleanliness in the meatpacking industry.
- Teddy Roosevelt
The Progressive Movement

Pure Food and Drug Act

- Passed in 1906, the first law to regulate manufacturing of food and medicine.
- Prohibited dangerous additives and inaccurate labeling.
The Progressive Movement

16th Amendment (1913)

- Allowed Congress to charge an income tax.
The Progressive Movement

17th Amendment (1913)

- Required U.S. senators to be elected directly by the voters.
- Previously, senators were chosen by state legislatures.
The Progressive Movement

18th Amendment (1919)

- The prohibition amendment; outlawing the use & sale of alcohol or any alcoholic beverage.

- [http://www.history.com/topics/18th-and-21st-amendments/videos](http://www.history.com/topics/18th-and-21st-amendments/videos)
The Progressive Movement

19th Amendment (1920)

- Amendment to the U.S. Constitution extending the right to vote to women in federal or state elections.
The following quote would best describe which new piece of legislation passed during the Progressive Era?

“After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.”

A. 16th Amendment  
B. Meat Inspection Act  
C. 18th Amendment  
D. Pure Food & Drug Act
The Progressive Movement

Founding of the NAACP

- Founded in 1909, the NAACP was one of the earliest and most influential civil rights organization in the United States.
- During its early years, the NAACP focused on legal strategies designed to confront the critical civil rights issues of the day.
- Brought numerous cases into the US court system to try to break down racial barriers and gain constitutional rights for minorities.
W.E.B. Du Bois

William Edward Burghardt “W. E. B.” Du Bois (1868-1963) was a leading African-American sociologist, writer and activist. Educated at Harvard University and other top schools, Du Bois studied with some of the most important social thinkers of his time.

A founding officer of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and editor of its magazine.

http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/w-e-b-du-bois
Presidents During Progressive Era
The Progressive Movement

Theodore Roosevelt

- Was known as the trust busting and conservationist president.
- The point of trust busting was to keep businesses competitive.
- Roosevelt's progressive policies in New York ran him afoul of his own party, so Republican Party bosses plotted to quiet him by naming him on the McKinley ticket in the thankless post of vice president.
- Became the 26th President of the U.S. in 1901 when who was assassinated???
- Presidential Trivia - Roosevelt became the youngest man (42) to serve as president. Who was the youngest man to be ELECTED President?
The Progressive Movement

William Howard Taft

- Became president after Teddy Roosevelt. Was basically handpicked by Teddy to take over as President.
- Generally more conservative than Roosevelt, Taft also lacked his expansive view of presidential power, and was generally a more successful administrator than politician.
- Because Roosevelt was unhappy with the Taft presidency, he decided to come back and run for president again.
- Only served as President for 1 term. Became chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, his lifelong goal.
The Progressive Movement

Woodrow Wilson

- The 28th U.S. president, led America through World War I and crafted the Versailles Treaty's "Fourteen Points," the last of which was creating a League of Nations to ensure world peace.

- Wilson also created the Federal Reserve and supported the 19th Amendment, allowing women to vote.

- **Was the last U.S. President of the Progressive Era.**

- The Progressive Era would end with the U.S. entry into WWI.

The Progressive Movement

Progressive Party

- Known for its strong commitment to **progressive causes** that had become popular over the past 2 decades
- The party advocated additional **regulation** of industry and trusts, sweeping **reforms** of many areas of government, compensation by the government for workers injured on the job, pensions for the elderly and for widows with children, and women suffrage.
The Progressive Movement

Bull Moose Party

- The election of 1912 was special because it pitted a former president (Roosevelt) vs. the current president (Taft).
- Since Taft was the Republican nominee and Roosevelt still wanted to run for president, he split from the Republican Party and created his own political party.
- It was called the Bull Moose Party because that was one of Teddy’s nicknames.
- The Progressive Party that sponsored Theodore Roosevelt.
The United States presidential election of 1912 was fought among three major candidates.

- Teddy Roosevelt (88) 4,119,207
- William Howard Taft (8) 3,483,922
- Woodrow Wilson (435) 6,293,454

Interesting fact: Roosevelt and Taft split up the Republican votes. Their vote totals combined (popular) would have surpassed W.W. (7 million vs. 6 million).

- Teddy Roosevelt also received more votes than any other 3rd party candidate before or since.
- 1912 was also the last year that the candidate that placed 2nd was not a Republican or Democrat.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qdl8RzFcArU
EXIT TICKET

The Progressive Party that sponsored Theodore Roosevelt was also known as:

A. The Wobblies
B. The Bull Moose Party
C. The Whigs
D. The Suffragists