The Progressive Era
Key Vocabulary

- **Civil Service** - a system that includes most government jobs, except elected positions, appointed positions, and the military.
- **Primary** - where voters choose their party’s candidate
- **Recall** - a process that people use to remove elected officials from office
- **Initiative** - a process that allows voters to put a bill before a state legislature
- **Referendum** - a way for people to vote directly on a proposed law.
- **Graduated Income Tax** - a tax that taxes at different rates depending on income
- **Muckrakers** - journalists who exposed problems in society.
The Gilded Age

• *Gilded* - to cover something with gold paint to make it seem valuable.

• Think back to big business, monopolies, and trusts. Now think of child labor and sweatshops.

• Why do you think this time in American History was called the Gilded Age?
Corruption in Politics

**Cause: Spoils System**
- Spoils System: The practice of hiring political supporters was getting out of control.
- President Garfield was assassinated by a “disappointed office seeker” - someone who thought he was owed a job.

**Effect: Civil Service**
- Pendleton Act - created the civil service commission, hiring people based on merit.
Corruption in Business

**Cause: Big Business**
- Railroads and Monopolies held strong influence over politics.
- Americans demanded that the government stop monopolies

**Effect: Breakup of Monopolies and Trusts**
- Interstate Commerce Commission was established to regulate railroads.
- The Sherman Anti-trust Act was passed to keep big businesses from limiting competition.
Boss Tweed and Thomas Nast

- Boss Tweed ran a **political machine** in NYC called “Tammany Hall”
Boss Tweed and Thomas Nast

- **Thomas Nast** worked at the NY Times and drew many unflattering cartoons of Tweed as a greedy crook. Tweed was finally arrested. This showed the power of good journalism.
Political Reform

Before
1. Party leaders pick candidates
2. Only the legislature can introduce a bill
3. Only legislators pass laws
4. Only the court or legislature can remove an official

New Law
1. PRIMARY
2. INITIATIVE
3. REFERENDUM
4. RECALL

After
1. Voters elect party candidates
2. Voters can propose a bill
3. Voters can vote directly on bills
4. Voters can remove elected officials
Political Reform

• 16\textsuperscript{th} Amendment: \textbf{Graduated} Income Tax- ensures that the wealthy pay more in taxes. Currently the richest 1\% of Americans pay nearly half of all taxes.

• 17\textsuperscript{th} Amendment: US Senators are now elected by voters, NOT the state legislature.
Muckrakers

• Journalists who exposed problems in society. They focused on big business, politics, and racism.
  • Ida Tarbell- exposed problems in monopolies and trusts
  • Upton Sinclair- exposed problems in the food industry
  • Jacob Riis- exposed the problems of living in slums.
Key Vocabulary

• **Trustbuster**- a person working to destroy monopolies and trusts
• **Conservation**- the protection of natural resources
Teddy Roosevelt

• Childhood
  1. Roosevelt was wealthy
  2. As a child he was often sick
  3. He got involved in sports and worked out frequently
  4. Loved the outdoors - hunting/fishing/camping

• Public Service
  1. NY Legislator
  2. Civil Service Commission
  3. NYC Police Chief
  4. War Hero
  5. NY Governor
TR the trustbuster

• TR saw that big business could be “good” or “bad”
  • Good
    1. Fair to workers
    2. Efficient
  • Bad
    1. Cheated the public
    2. Unfair to workers
    3. Eliminated competition
TR the trustbuster

• **Trustbuster**: TR saw the President as someone who should protect the people by busting up monopolies/trusts
  - Northern Securities Company: JP Morgan’s RR Company
  - TR used the Sherman Anti-trust act to **bust the trust**
  - 1902 Coal Strike: workers wanted better pay/shorter day
• Square Deal Reforms: TR easily wins re-election
  - Square Deal- workers and owners succeed
  - Clean-up America (literally)- meat inspection and cities
Natural Resources

• TR saw that Americans were destroying our natural resources
  • Places like the Grand Canyon were “National Heirlooms”

• Created the **US Forest Service** and **National Parks System**- protected 230 million acres

• “I recognize the right and duty of this generation to develop and use the natural resources of our land, but I do not recognize the right to waste them, or to rob future generations of their use”  
  - Teddy Roosevelt
President Taft

• President Taft was far different than TR. He was quiet and cautious.
  1. He broke up more trusts than Roosevelt
  2. He gave government employees an 8 hr work day
  3. He raised tariffs and lost support of other progressives.
  4. TR became furious as Taft was too conservative.
Election of 1912

1. Progressives wanted TR to run for President again, but the Republicans wanted Taft.
2. TR split away from Republicans and formed the Bull Moose Party.
3. Woodrow Wilson won the election easily as Taft and TR split the Republican vote.
Woodrow Wilson

• Wilson increases government power:
  1. Wilson was a “cautious reformer”, and wanted to **restore competition** to the economy.
  2. He called this program the “New Freedom” and created the Federal Trade Commission to investigate companies.
  3. The FTC can order companies to stop using unfair practices to destroy competitors.
  4. He created the **Federal Reserve**- a group of banks that have the power to control the money supply and can raise interest rates.
The Progressive Era

Struggles for equality
Key Vocabulary

1. **Suffrage** - the right to vote
2. **Suffragists** - people who worked to get women the right to vote
3. **Prohibition** - the ban on sale and consumption of alcohol
4. **18th Amendment** - outlawed the sale and consumption of alcohol
5. **19th Amendment** - gave women the right to vote
Women’s Rights

1. Women’s rights was not a focus of the Progressives (TR, Taft, Wilson). They were focused mainly on trustbusting and improving industry.

2. Seneca Falls Convention of 1848 - the official start of the women’s rights movement led by Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

3. The West - Pioneer women in the west were the first to vote. They were considered equals to men in the frontier lifestyle.

4. Industry - Millions of women worked in factories, but were still paid less than men. Their work outside the home changed the conversation about women voting.
Suffrage

• Alice Paul and Carrie Catt devised a plan that included picketing the capitol of states to get the right to vote. They worked their way across the west and Midwest. Pres. Wilson agreed to help suffragists.

• August 1920: The 19th Amendment was passed, giving women the right to vote.
Prohibition

• Women were trying to clean up the country. They were cleaning up poverty and child labor. They saw alcohol abuse as another problem.

• **The 18th Amendment**: Banned the sale and consumption of alcohol.
African-Americans start to help themselves

• Booker T. Washington- African-American educator who wanted to see African Americans learn trades and move up gradually in society.

• WEB DuBois- The first African American to earn a PhD from Harvard. He also urged African-Americans to educate themselves, but he spoke out loudly against discrimination and lynching.
Minorities Continue to Struggle

• Mexicans- there were lots of Mexicans working in agriculture in the South. They were segregated as well.

• Japanese- were discriminated against in California to the point where Teddy Roosevelt stopped them from immigrating with the Gentleman’s Agreement.

• Religious- Catholics and Jews were spread across the country and had to deal with religious discrimination.