AP American History Mrs. Scherer

Unit 6: Gilded Age

The Impact of Industrialization on Workers and their Families

 During the late 19th century the United States became the leading industrial nation in the world. During this materialistic age, the “law of the jungle,” as expressed in Social Darwinism, justified business practices that many later came to regard as unsavory and unethical. Strikes and depressions focused attention on the deplorable living conditions of many workers, particularly immigrants, and brought increasing pressure for change from humanitarian reformers.

 Not until passage of the landmark Interstate Commerce Act in 1887 did Congress accept responsibility for regulating practices of big businesses in the public interest. Three years later, it passed the historic Sherman Antitrust Act as well. Although enforcement of both laws remained weak until well into the 20th century when supplementary legislation strengthened both acts, Congress had set a precedent for government regulation of businesses.

Task:

You have been assigned one of the individual listed below, and for homework assume the role of that person and prepare a ONE minute presentation you might give before a House of Representatives committee investigating conditions in factories and mines and living conditions of industrial workers in 1895.

* **Workers** should focus on specific **living and working conditions, diseases associated with occupation, You must bring a PHOTO of your work experience.**
* **Capitalists** should stress the benefits of unregulated capitalism in bringing progress to the nation and justify their actions towards workers
* **Reformers** should offer their insights on urban living conditions and any solutions they may have for improving living conditions.

**Everyone must have their speech/presentation written on an index card to be read aloud to the class. Make it informative and descriptive and deliver it with intonation and articulation!!!!!**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Workers: (Be sure to focus on your particular industry, DON’T generalize!!1. 9 year old girl working in a cigar factory
2. A Russian Jew working in New York’s Garment District
3. A female textile worker
4. A steel worker in the Carnegie steel mill in Homestead Pennsylvania
5. A Serbian immigrant working as a coal miner and living in a “company town” in West Virginia coal country.
6. A Polish immigrant working in one of Gustav Swift’s meat packing plants in Chicago
7. A child laborer as a “newsie
8. An American railroad worker (Molly McGuires)
9. Mother of four living in NYC tenement, a chimndey sweep A child laborer in the Fishing industry: Oyster Shucker, Shrimp Peeler
10. A child Laborer as a matchstick dipper.
11. A child laborer as a “Blower’s Dog” in glass industry.
 | Capitalist-------James Duke-------Max Blanck and Issac Harris------Andrew Carneige------A Pinkerton Guard-------Gustav Swift-------William Randolf Hearst/Joseph Pulitzer------Cornelius Vanderbilt------J.P. Morgan------Dupont Family------Louis Comfort Tiffany |

Social Critics: You must submit a 1 page informative flyer expressing your point of view.

1. Samuel Gompers, founder of the American Federation of Labor
2. Edward Bellamy, author of Looking Backward: 2000 to 1887
3. Jane Addams, founder of Hull House in Chicago and author of Twenty Years at Hull house
4. Henry George, author of Progress and Poverty
5. Jacob Riis, author of How the Other Half Lives

AP American History Mrs. Scherer

Unit 6: Gilded Age Group Members:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The Impact of Industrialization on Workers and their Families

Task: Now that everyone has presented before the House of Representatives, you and your group will draft a bill that you believe would have helped alleviate one of the worst abuses of unregulated capitalism in 1895.

Name of Bill:

Objective:

Content of Bill:

Proposed Method of Enforcement:

How it would have improved living or working conditions:

Topics for Bills

Food inspection

Child labor

Tenement bldgs.

Right to organize

Company town

Worker training

Working conditions and safety

Public education

City services