

Module 6: A Nation Grows - 1877 to the 1900s
Topic 5 Content: Accomplishments of the Progressive Movement Notes

Introduction



“I am in this cause with my whole heart and soul. I believe that the Progressive Movement is making life a little easier for all of our people; a movement to try to take the burdens off men especially the women and children of this country. I am absorbed in the success of that movement.” – Theodore Roosevelt

Three broad categories characterize the accomplishments of the Progressive Movement: Economic, Political, and Social.

Module 6: A Nation Grows - 1877 to the 1900s
Topic 5 Content: Accomplishments of the Progressive Movement Notes

Economic Accomplishments of the Progressive Movement

Click the number one to explore the economic accomplishments of the Progressive Movement.

01 LABOR UNIONS

02 ANTI-TRUST LAWS

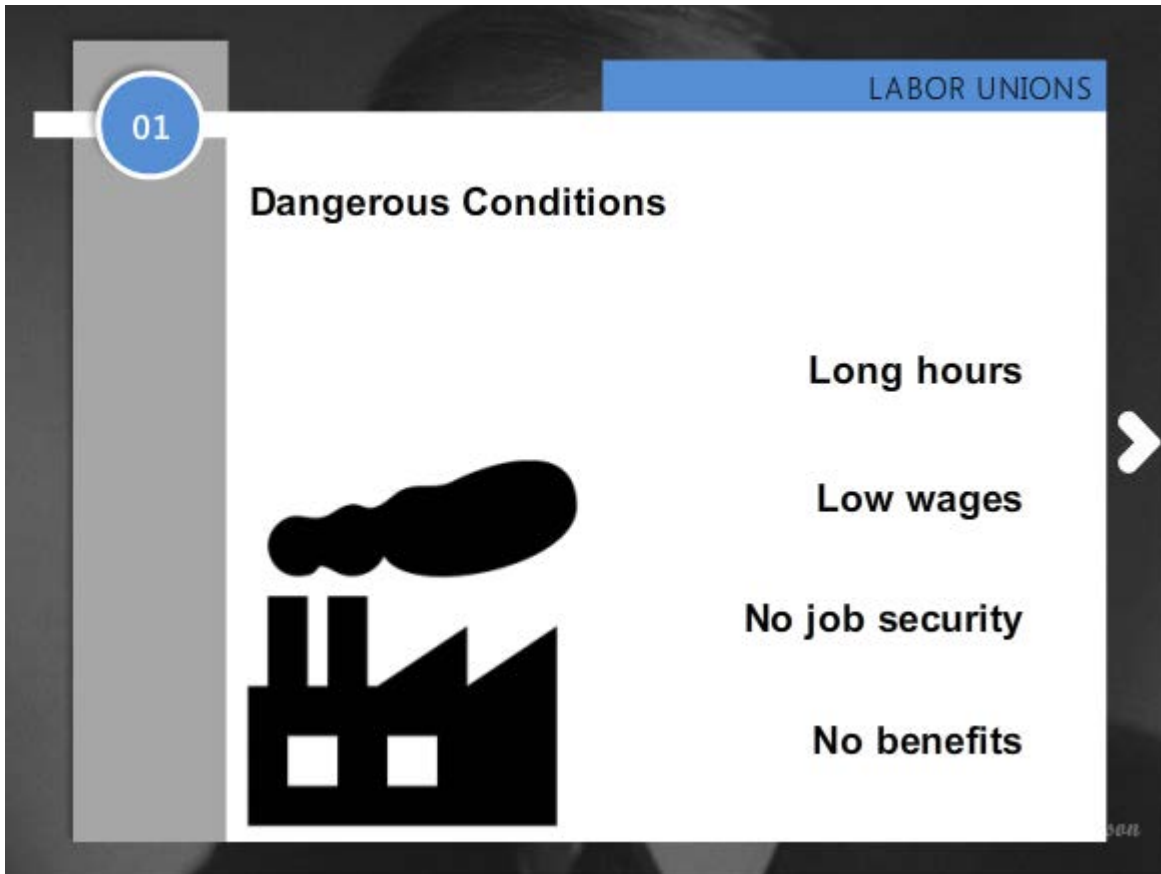
03 FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Woodrow Wilson

The economic results of the Progressive Movement included the impact of labor unions, anti-trust laws, and the Federal Reserve Bank. Click the number one to begin exploring the economic accomplishments of the Progressive Movement.

Module 6: A Nation Grows - 1877 to the 1900s
Topic 5 Content: Accomplishments of the Progressive Movement Notes

Impacts of Labor Unions



Progressives wanted to change the social problems created by industrialization in American cities. The problems included dangerous working conditions for miners, railroad, and factory workers, along with the abuse of child labor and women workers. Factory workers were faced with long hours, low wages, no job security, and no benefits. Since transportation was limited, factory workers often resided in company towns. In a company town, every aspect of social life was connected to the company. If a worker was laid off, he or she still had to pay the company rent.

All of these social issues led workers to form and join labor unions. A union is an organization of workers that tries to gain higher wages, improve working conditions, and better the benefits employees receive. The first important union in the United States was the Knights of Labor. This union grew rapidly under the leadership of Terence Powderly, but was destroyed by negative publicity after the Haymarket Square Riot. This riot was a violent confrontation between workers and the police at Haymarket Square in Chicago, Illinois, which took place in 1886. On May 4, 1886, workers at McCormick Reaper Works were protesting the killing and wounding of several workers during an organized labor strike. An unidentified individual threw a bomb at police and members of the police, and opened fire on the crowd. The riot killed eight people and injured many others.

Another labor union, The American Federation of Labor (AFL), was formed by Samuel Gompers. Gompers served as the organization's president from 1886 until 1924. The American Federation of Labor was composed of several different craft unions. As president, Gompers used collective bargaining to secure workers shorter hours and higher wages.

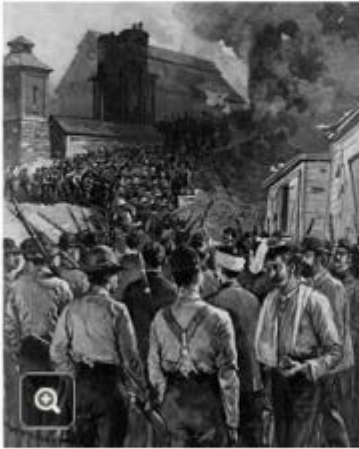
Module 6: A Nation Grows - 1877 to the 1900s
Topic 5 Content: Accomplishments of the Progressive Movement Notes

Impacts of Labor Unions

01

LABOR UNIONS

American Federation of Labor (AFL)



Samuel Gompers attempted to secure shorter working hours and higher wages for laborers.

The AFL suffered a large defeat during the Homestead Strike of 1892 which occurred at the Carnegie Steel Company.

Illustration of the Homestead Strike

On July 2, 1892, the AFL suffered a large defeat at the hands of big business. Refusing to accept the working conditions set by Andrew Carnegie at the Carnegie Steel Company, a craft union that was part of the AFL went on strike. This strike was called the Homestead Strike, and it turned violent when private security guards named “Pinkertons” attempted to break it up. Eventually, the state of Pennsylvania intervened and stopped the strike using 8,000 National Guard militiamen. Carnegie rehired many of the workers, but they had to work on the company’s terms. Samuel Gompers held the union together after this defeat, and the AFL is still very powerful today.

Eugene V. Debs led the American Railway Union. Like the Knights of Labor, it enjoyed short-term success that came to an end in 1894. The Pullman strike was a widespread railroad strike that disrupted all rail traffic in the Midwest. The strike began when the Pullman Palace Car Company cut already low wages and did not reduce rent in their company town. Many of the workers faced starvation. Workers who confronted the company’s president were fired. The strike turned violent and could not be stopped by state and local police. Eventually, a 6,000-man militia ended the riot, but not before the damage was done. The strike negatively impacted the American Railway Union because entrepreneurs relied on the train system for business.


Module 6: A Nation Grows - 1877 to the 1900s
Topic 5 Content: Accomplishments of the Progressive Movement Notes

Impacts of Labor Unions

01

LABOR UNIONS

International Ladies Garment Workers Union



Seal of the ILGWU

The International Ladies Garment Union (ILGWU) was formed in 1900, and made attempts to organize women who worked in textile factories.

On March 25, 1911, 146 workers for the Triangle Shirtwaist Company died in a bad fire because doors to the stairwells had been locked.

ILGWU strikes in New York City in 1909 and 1910 resulted in improved factory conditions and shorter working hours.

The International Ladies' Garment Workers Union was formed in 1900, and made an early attempt to organize the women who worked in textile factories. Most of the members of the ILGWU were Jewish immigrants who worked in unfair and unsanitary conditions. The Union got a big boost after a tragic accident. On March 25, 1911, one hundred forty-six workers for the Triangle Shirtwaist Company died in a bad fire. The garment workers, who worked on the eighth, ninth, and tenth floors of a building, could not get to the stairwells because the owners had locked the doors to prevent workers from taking a break, a common practice at the time. The Triangle Shirtwaist Company fire helped spur the growth of the Ladies' Garment Workers Union, which would fight to improve working conditions. The Union organized two successful strikes in 1909 and 1910 in New York City. These strikes resulted in improved factory conditions and shorter working hours.

Module 6: A Nation Grows - 1877 to the 1900s
Topic 5 Content: Accomplishments of the Progressive Movement Notes

Anti-Trust Laws

02

ANTI-TRUST LAWS

Sherman Anti-Trust Act	Clayton Anti-Trust Act
Passed in 1890 in an effort to eliminate monopolies.	Made price-fixing illegal and exempted labor unions from the Sherman Anti-Trust Act.

Illustration of the U.S. Capitol building.

As a result of monopolies that existed during the Progressive Movement, Congress passed two anti-trust laws. These laws were an effort to restore free capitalism. The Sherman Anti-Trust Act was an 1890 law that made it illegal for businesses to set up monopolies. It tried to prevent any business structure that “restrains trade.” However, because of its vague wording, the Sherman Anti-Trust Act was not very effective. At first, the federal courts used the Sherman Act more to limit unions than business monopolies.


During Woodrow Wilson’s presidency, Congress passed the Clayton Anti-Trust Act. This law outlawed price-fixing by competing corporations, and exempted unions from the Sherman Anti-Trust Act. In addition, by the end of the Progressive period, some labor unions had made progress in limiting the number of work hours for their members.

Module 6: A Nation Grows - 1877 to the 1900s
Topic 5 Content: Accomplishments of the Progressive Movement Notes

Federal Reserve

03

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM



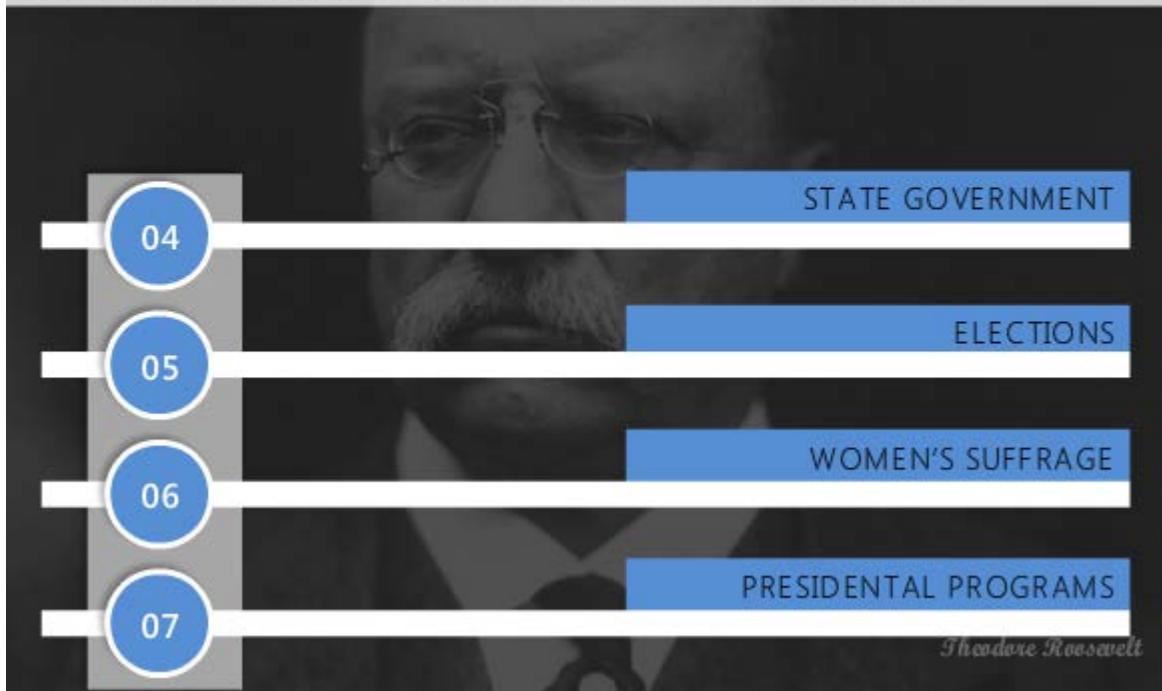
The Federal Reserve System maintains control over the monetary system of the United States government.

In 1913 the Federal Reserve System was created in order to maintain central control over the monetary system of the United States. This was in response to a number of financial panics that had occurred in the years prior to its creation. The Federal Reserve is charged with maximizing employment, keeping prices stable, and moderating interest rates.

Module 6: A Nation Grows - 1877 to the 1900s
Topic 5 Content: Accomplishments of the Progressive Movement Notes

Political Accomplishments of the Progressive Movement

Click the number four to begin exploring the political accomplishments of the Progressive Movement.



The political accomplishments of the Progressive Movement included changes at the state level, primary elections, and two Constitutional amendments. Click the number four to begin exploring the political accomplishments of the Progressive Movement.

Module 6: A Nation Grows - 1877 to the 1900s
Topic 5 Content: Accomplishments of the Progressive Movement Notes

State Governments

04

STATE GOVERNMENT

Referendum
A process by which citizens may vote on laws that are passed by a legislative body

Initiative
A process that permits citizens to propose laws to their state or local governments

At the state level, Progressives attempted to make governments more democratic through referendum, initiative, and recall. While some states adopted democratic reform, others did not. Referendum and initiative are two types of procedures that permit voters to decide on laws. Referendum is a process by which citizens may vote on laws that are passed by a legislative body. Initiative is a process that permits citizens to propose laws to their state or local governments. Both of these processes enable citizens to use the vote as a resource to propose, amend, and defeat laws created by governments.

A recall election is the process by which citizens may vote to remove government officials from office before their terms are finished. During the progressive period, thirteen states adopted procedures for recall. Recall is a safeguard against corruption in politics.

Module 6: A Nation Grows - 1877 to the 1900s
Topic 5 Content: Accomplishments of the Progressive Movement Notes

Elections

05

ELECTIONS

National Level

“The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each state, elected by the **people** thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote.”

17th
Amendment

In order to make the election process more democratic, Progressives wanted to change the way elections took place. At the state level, Progressives required the use of the secret ballot. The use of the secret ballot eliminated any attempt to intimidate voters and gave the voters privacy for all primary elections. Primary elections are elections in which voters nominate candidates for office, rather than allowing the political party leaders to choose the party's candidates in state or local elections.

At the national level, the election process was made more democratic with the passing of the Seventeenth Amendment. This amendment provided for the direct election of United States Senators by the people, rather than by state legislatures.

Module 6: A Nation Grows - 1877 to the 1900s
Topic 5 Content: Accomplishments of the Progressive Movement Notes

Woman's Suffrage

06

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

Suffrage is the right to vote.

The movement was supported by women like Susan B. Anthony, Carrie Chapman Catt, and Alice Paul.

The movement benefited from women in the labor force during WWI.

The 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote.

19th
Amendment

The Progressive Movement recognized that America's promise of equality had largely ignored American women. As a result, many Progressives supported the women's suffrage movement. Since suffrage means the right to vote, the women's suffrage movement worked to gain the right to vote for American women. This movement benefited from strong leadership provided by women like Susan B. Anthony, Carrie Chapman Catt, and Alice Paul. The movement also benefited from the numerous women who entered the labor force during World War I while many men were away fighting in the war. The efforts of Anthony and other suffragists resulted in the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution. This constitutional amendment, which became part of the Constitution in 1920, gave American women the right to vote.

Module 6: A Nation Grows - 1877 to the 1900s
Topic 5 Content: Accomplishments of the Progressive Movement Notes

Presidential Programs

07

PRESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

Theodore Roosevelt	Woodrow Wilson
<i>"Square Deal"</i>	<i>"New Freedom"</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>C</u>onservation of natural resources• <u>C</u>ontrol of corporations• <u>C</u>onsumer protection	<p>Focused on finding a balance between small business owners and industry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reformed tariffs• Reformed banks• Reformed trusts
<p>Focused on finding a balance between big business and the demands of organized labor</p>	

The two most famous presidents identified with the Progressive movement were Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson. Theodore Roosevelt called his Progressive program the "Square Deal," and Woodrow Wilson called his program the "New Freedom."

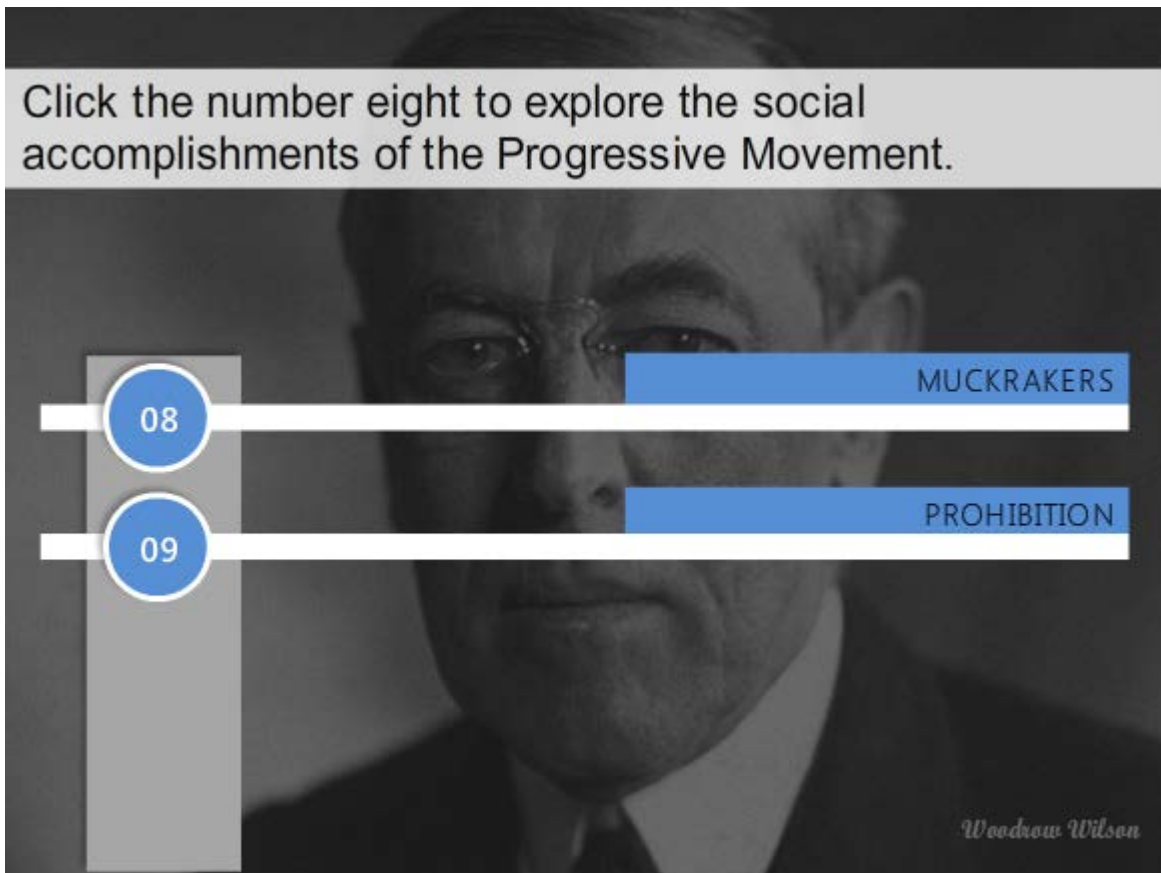
Roosevelt's "Square Deal" program embraced three basic ideas: conservation of natural resources, control of corporations, and consumer protection. These were the three "C's" of the "Square Deal." This program hoped to find a balance between big business and the demands of organized labor.

Virginian Woodrow Wilson's "New Freedom" program focused on three types of reform. Wilson wanted to find balance between small business owners and industry. He felt that small businesses and small farmers should be able to succeed in the United States if reforms were made in tariffs, banks, and trusts.

Module 6: A Nation Grows - 1877 to the 1900s
Topic 5 Content: Accomplishments of the Progressive Movement Notes

Social Accomplishments of the Progressive Movement

Click the number eight to explore the social accomplishments of the Progressive Movement.

An interactive menu with a background image of Woodrow Wilson. On the left, a vertical grey bar contains two blue circular buttons with the numbers '08' and '09'. To the right of these buttons are two horizontal blue bars. The top bar is labeled 'MUCKRAKERS' and is connected to the '08' button by a white horizontal line. The bottom bar is labeled 'PROHIBITION' and is connected to the '09' button by a white horizontal line. The name 'Woodrow Wilson' is written in a small, light-colored font in the bottom right corner of the background image.

MUCKRAKERS

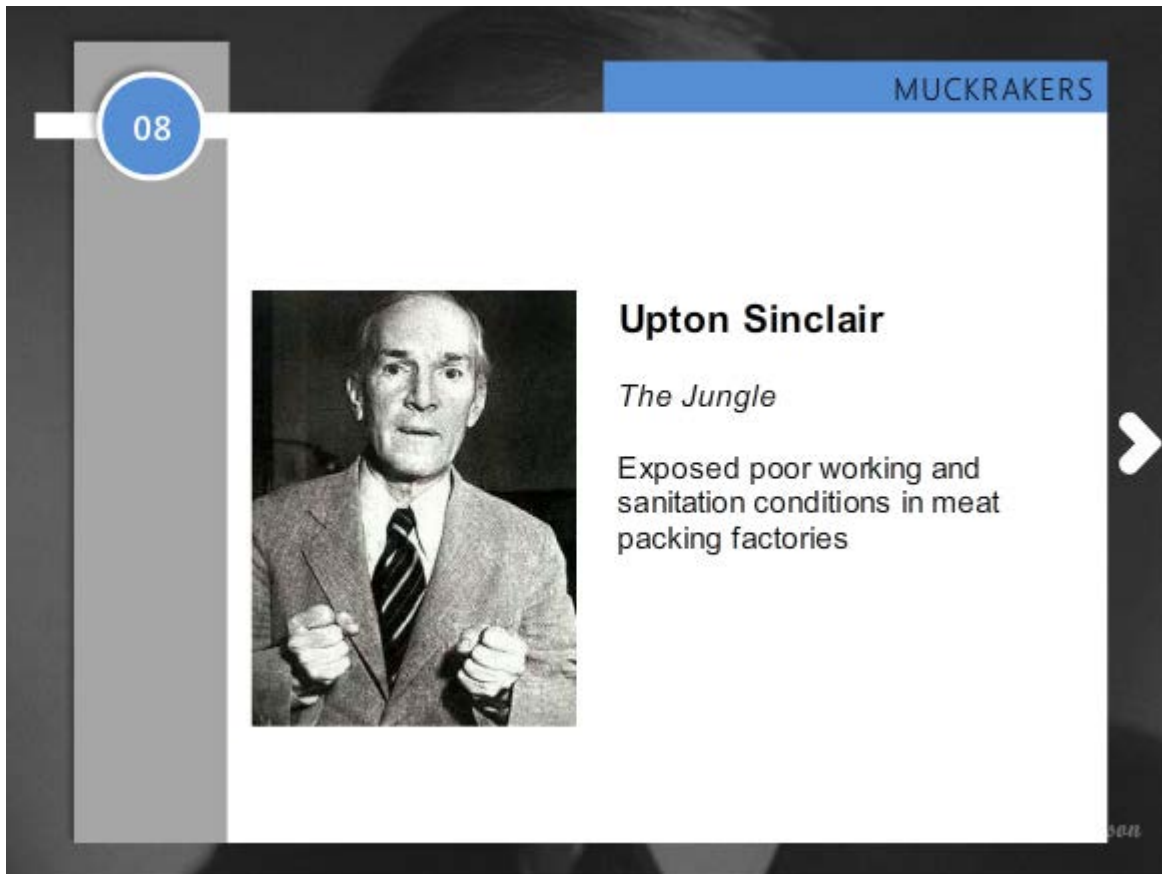
PROHIBITION

Woodrow Wilson

The social accomplishments of the Progressive Movement included Muckraker inspired consumer protections, and a failed attempt to prohibit alcohol. Click the number eight to begin exploring the social accomplishments of the Progressive Movement.

Module 6: A Nation Grows - 1877 to the 1900s
Topic 5 Content: Accomplishments of the Progressive Movement Notes

Muckrakers



08

MUCKRAKERS

Upton Sinclair

The Jungle

Exposed poor working and sanitation conditions in meat packing factories


Muckrakers were an important group of Progressives who drew national attention to income disparity and many other social problems that plagued America. Muckrakers were writers who used literature to expose economic, political, and societal abuses. One of the first Muckrakers was Ida Tarbell, who famously wrote *The History of the Standard Oil Company*, which investigated John D. Rockefeller's efforts to monopolize the oil trade. Another Muckraker was Lincoln Steffens, author of *The Shame of the Cities*, which exposed the corrupt political practices of municipal governments. A third Muckraker, Upton Sinclair, wrote *The Jungle*, a book that exposed the poor working and sanitation conditions in the meat packing factories. Sinclair's work caused such an uproar that Congress passed the Meat Inspection Act and the Pure Food and Drug Act a few months later. These laws provided consumers with protections regarding food and drugs.

Module 6: A Nation Grows - 1877 to the 1900s
Topic 5 Content: Accomplishments of the Progressive Movement Notes

Prohibition

09

PROHIBITION



Banned the production, transportation, and sale of alcohol with the 18th Amendment.

Originally inspired from work done by the temperance movement during the Second Great Awakening that occurred prior to the Civil War, the United States officially banned the production, transportation, and sale of alcohol by ratifying the Eighteenth Amendment in January 1919. Virginia became the second state to ratify the amendment, four days after Mississippi. Better known as the "Prohibition," this attempt to prevent alcohol consumption failed. With the ratification of the Twenty-First Amendment in December 1933, the Eighteenth Amendment was repealed. The Twenty-First Amendment remains the only amendment in the United States Constitution to repeal another.