Lesson Plan: Reform: Today and Yesterday Subject: Pressures for Reform (1) Unit: The Progressive Era - 1 Teacher: Jill Ferris (Mr. Hanson) Course: 11 U.S. History Regents Date: Thursday, February 7, 2008

- 1. Content: I want my students to understand what specific political, economic, and social problems in late-19<sup>th</sup> century America led to the call for reform.
- 2. Framing: This is the first lesson in the unit, so it will draw on personal opinion to introduce the Progressive era and push for reform measures to students.
- 3. Objective(s): I want students to understand that there was no one progressive movement, but a conglomeration of individual movements attempting to remedy problems within society. There was no common consensus as to what issue was most important, nor was there a definite agreement about how reform measures should be pursued.
- 4. Instructional Procedures: (45 min.)
  - a. Introduction: names. As students enter the class, give them index cards. Ask them to fill them out in the first two minutes of class (form on board). Collect each card individually to connect names with faces. (5 min.)
  - b. Draw t-chart on the board. Ask class to brainstorm social problems from the turn of the century and today. List in related order (conservation – global warming). (5 min.)
  - c. Pass out Progressive Priorities worksheet. Instruct students to complete sheet silently and independently. They should write down their thoughts on how the problem would be best resolved/lessened, as well as rank the importance of all of the social problems. (10 min.)
  - d. Break out into groups based on top priority. Discuss similarities/differences in how the problem should be solved. (12 min.)
  - e. Students stay in smaller groups, but turn and have large group discussion about differences in solutions (8 min.).
    - i. Who is involved in reform? (Middle class, local, state, national government)
    - ii. What kind of change is necessary? (legislative, cultural, economic)
- 5. Materials/Equipment: index cards, write questions on board at start of class, chalk for writing on blackboard (4a), Progressive Priorities worksheet (4b-c), homework worksheet (7a).
- 6. Assessment/Evaluation: Assessment will be conducted based on student participation in the classroom activity and discussion.
- 7. End Framing: Homework: Read Ch. 20, sections 1 and 2. Answer questions.

## **Progressive Priorities**

Read through all of the Progressive Problems and rank them in order of importance. (1—most important, 8—least important). Then brainstorm possible reforms for each problem.

Ranking	Progressive Problem	How could this be effectively reformed?
	Racism: In 1896, the U.S.	
	Supreme Court ruled that Jim	
	Crow laws which promoted	
	segregation were legal, as long	
	as facilities were provided that	
	were separate, but equal. The	
	federal government also	
	practiced institutionalized	
	racism by discriminating against	
	blacks in hiring for jobs.	
	Women's Rights: Even though	
	some women had been agitating	
	for suffrage for over fifty years,	
	the vote was still limited to men.	
	Women also received lower	
	wages than men and carried the	
	burden of urban poverty.	
	Conservation: Some areas of	
	the country were plagued with	
	drought, while others faced	
	terrible flooding. Logging	
	companies used land	
	indiscriminately, destroying old	
	forests that had taken centuries	
	to grow.	
	Working Conditions: Members	
	of the working class were	
	subjected to long hours, low	
	pay, and poor working	
	conditions. All those injured at	
	work were also in danger of	
	losing their job. Even young	
	children were often employed in	
	dangerous conditions.	
	Monopolies: Several men,	
	including J.P. Morgan and the	
	Rockefellers, built bad "trusts"	
	that attempted to build control	
	the market and gouge profits	
	from the public.	

Political Corruption: The	
political system was controlled	
by a number of "bosses" who	
pressured voters in supporting	
their candidates and causes.	
Voting was not done secretly	
and people had little influence	
over the political agenda.	
Urban Slums: Many new	
immigrants and members of the	
working class lived in crowded,	
run-down tenements in the	
cities. Often a few families were	
crowded into a small room	
without running water.	
Education: Schooling was not	
mandatory, and was often	
reserved for the upper classes.	
With the influx of a large	
immigrant population, there	
were also concerns about	
assimilating new Americans into	
the population.	

**Homework:** Read Ch. 20, Sections 1 and 2. Then answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Who worked for reform in the Progressive era? What types of reforms were they interested in?

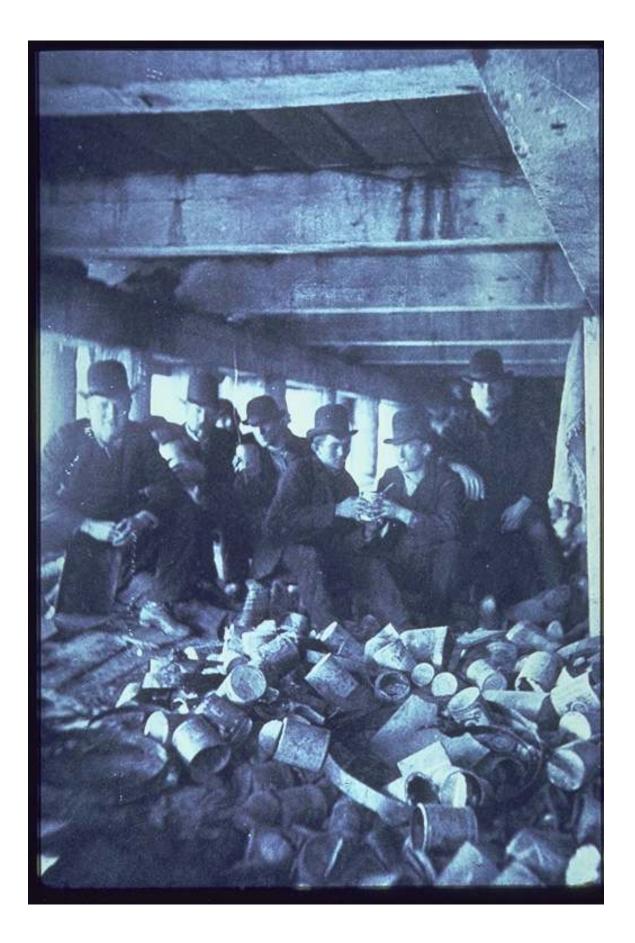
2. Name 2 reforms at the state level and 2 reforms at the national level.

3. This time period is referred to as the "Progressive era." What does this name mean? Is the name accurate?

Lesson Plan: A Nation Ripe for Reform Subject: Pressures for Reform (2) Unit: The Progressive Era (2) Teacher: Jill Ferris (Mr. Hanson) Course: 11 U.S. History Regents Date: Friday, February 8, 2008

- 1. Content: I want my students to understand what specific political, economic, and social problems in late-19<sup>th</sup> century America led to the call for reform.
- 2. Framing: Yesterday we talked about areas of reform during the Progressive era. We will build on this by considering what the conditions were that necessitated reform.
- 3. Objective(s): I want students to analyze visual sources for information about the conditions at the turn of the century.
- 4. Instructional Procedures: (45 min.)
  - a. VTS 2 images Jacob Riis "Family making paper flowers" and "A growler gang" (20-25 min. total)
  - b. Review (3 min.) What are the issues we talked about yesterday? Who were the reformers?
  - c. Guided notes about conditions for reform and the results of the progressive era (15 min.) include how capitalism works and economic critique...surplus, profit, reserve army of labor, requires unemployment, America's place in the world Spanish-American war
- 5. Materials/Equipment: figure out how to show images bring computer, cord to connect to tv?, guided notes on transparency, copies for students
- 6. Assessment/Evaluation: Assessment will be done on the basis of participation in discussion.
- 7. End Framing:
  - a. Homework: No homework.





Lesson Plan: Who were the muckrakers and what did they do? Subject: Progress: social and economic reform and consumer protection (1) Unit: The Progressive Era - 3 Teacher: Jill Ferris (Mr. Hanson) Course: 11 U.S. History Regents Date: Tuesday, February 12, 2008

- 1. Content: Students should understand who and the muckrakers were, what they accomplished, and by what means.
- 2. Framing:
  - a. Historical context: The muckrakers were a group of journalists that investigated and wrote about corruption and other areas that needed reform. Part of the middle class reformers movement, legislation was passed, monopolies were broken up, and the political boss system was dismantled.
  - b. Classroom context: We have spent the past two classes covering the precipitating factors of the Progressive era. With this background, we will move to a study of the muckrakers those who influenced change in the era. Tonight's homework, a long assignment due after break, will help further the connection between reform in the Progressive era and reform efforts today.
- 3. Objective(s): Students will summarize the work, subject and results of seven muckrakers on a chart.
- 4. Instructional Procedures:
  - a. Review what led up to the Progressive era. (5 min.) What were conditions like in cities? What kind of reform was necessary? Who was involved?
  - b. Complete the muckraker worksheet (from Mr. Hanson), working in partners. You may use the book. (12-15 min.)
  - c. Review worksheet in class. (10 min.)
  - d. Read article about meat disease in brain (5 min.) (cut if running over)
  - e. Is reform still necessary? In what areas? We've already talked about current issues in relation to progressive areas of reform. Introduce writing assignment, begin brainstorming. (10 min.) (BEGIN NO LATER THAN 10:25)
- 5. Materials/Equipment: copies of muckraker worksheet with blanks, writing assignment and rubric, meat article.
- 6. Assessment/Evaluation: Assessment will be done by collecting and evaluating students' worksheets at the end of the period. Give participation credit.
- 7. End Framing: Homework: Muckraker Writing Assignment

## **Muckraker Writing Assignment**

Write a muckraking article about an current issue in the community, state or country that you believe should be reformed. Be sure to state what the problem is, why it is a problem and what should be done about it. You may choose any issue you like, but your argument must be clear.

- 1. Article should be at least 1 typewritten page, double spaced page or two handwritten pages.
- 2. Use at least one outside source (not Wikipedia!) and cite it. A good source might come from nytimes.com or washingtonpost.com. If you have trouble with how to cite your source(s), give it your best try. I should be able to figure out the author, article title, and source. We can go over this when you get back.
- 3. Refer to the rubric for guidance in constructing your article.
- 4. Must have article idea for next class.

## **TOPIC:** Muckrakers

Muckrakers were members of the press that investigated corruption in order to expose problems to the American people. They had a great amount of influence often resulting in the passage of laws designed to reform the abuse that they reported. Below are several Muckrakers from the Progressive period. Use the textbook to fill out the chart.

	Work	subject	results
Muckraker			
Thomas Nast		Political Corruption by NYC's political machine, Tammany Hall, led by Boss Tweed	
Jacob Riis	How the Other Half Lives(1890)		
Ida B. Wells			NAACP joined the fight for Federal anti-lynching legislation
Frank Norris	The Octopus(1901)	This fictional book exposed monopolistic railroad practices in California	
Ida Tarbell			
Lincoln Steffans			Cities began to use city commissions and city managers.
Upton Sinclair		Investigated dangerous working conditions and unsanitary procedures in the meatpacking industry.	