

# 5th Grade | Unit 6



# HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 506 A CHANGING NATION

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# A CHANGING NATION

America changed a great deal between 1890 and 1929. The changes began on the inside, where all good changes should begin. Americans were angry at the corruption and cheating that was taking place in their country. They began to make changes for the better, which are called reforms. These reforms from 1890 to 1917 were known as the Progressive Era.

As the reforms went forward, America began to show its strength to the world. America had been a farming nation without much power in the rest of the world before the Civil War. Now, with its great industrial strength, America began to act with greater force in the world. The United States defeated the European nation of Spain in the short Spanish-American War of 1898. Then our nation joined with friends in Europe to fight Germany in World War I. American soldiers made the difference and Germany was defeated.

After the war, America went wild. People spent money freely, drank illegal alcohol, changed the way they dressed, and played. This time was called the Roaring Twenties and it lasted until 1929. This LIFEPAC<sup>®</sup> will cover all these American changes.

# **Objectives**

**Read these objectives.** The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAC. Each section will list according to the numbers below what objectives will be met in that section. When you have finished this LIFEPAC, you should be able to:

- 1. Describe the Progressive reforms and the people who led them.
- 2. Describe the events and importance of the Spanish-American War.
- 3. Describe the course of World War I and explain why America became involved.
- 4. Explain how America reacted after World War I and why the peace was a bad one.
- 5. Explain what life was like in America in the Roaring Twenties.
- 6. Explain how the Stock Market Crash of 1929 happened and how it started the Great Depression.



# 1. THE PROGRESSIVE ERA

The *Progressive Movement* was the name of a large group of reforms around the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century. These reforms happened because ordinary Americans were angry at all of the corruption after the Civil War. They began to vote for honest men who promised to change things and the changes came. In the Progressive Era, dishonest politicians were put in jail, changes were made to prevent stealing from the government, the railroads were controlled, trusts were broken apart, and laws were passed to protect workers. America showed it could change its laws as it changed from a farming nation into an industrial nation.

# Objectives

**Review these objectives.** When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

- 1. Describe the Progressive reforms and the people who led them.
- 2. Describe the events and importance of the Spanish-American War.

# Vocabulary

**Study these new words.** Learning the meanings of these words is a good study habit and will improve your understanding of this LIFEPAC.

armistice (är' mə stis). A stop in warfare; temporary peace.

bid (bid). An offer to pay a certain price.

cavalry (kav' əl rē). Soldiers fighting on horseback.

dues (düz). The amount of money it costs to be a member of a club or organization.

**mine** (mīn). A small bomb placed in or under water, or buried just beneath the ground, to explode and destroy enemy shipping, troops or equipment.

**negotiate** (ni gō' shēāt). To talk over and arrange terms.

**press** (pres). Newspapers, magazines, radio and television and the people who report the news for them.

rebate (rē' bāt). The return of part of the money paid for something.

**strike** (strīk). To stop work to get better pay, shorter hours or to force an employer to meet some other demand.

**Note:** All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

**Pronunciation Key:** hat, āge, cãre, fär; let, ēqual, term; it, īce; hot, ōpen, ôrder; oil; out; cup, put, rüle; child; long; thin; /TH/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ or /ə/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.

# Reform

**City reforms.** Cities in the 1890s were a mess. Most cities were run by political bosses. These bosses sold contracts for things like supplying electricity, picking up trash, and cleaning the streets to whoever paid the biggest bribe. If the electricity stopped or the trash was not picked up, the boss did not care as long as he got his bribe. However, the people who had to live in the cities did care and they began to do something about it.

The first reforms came in the cities as honest men came forward to run for office. They were sick of the corruption and promised changes. Once they were elected, they forced businesses to make public **bids** for city contracts. Businesses that did not provide the services they promised lost their contracts, so they started doing a better job.

The reformers also built parks for the people of the city to enjoy, schools for their children, and fired policemen who took bribes. They changed the way taxes were assessed so that rich people, who had not paid full taxes before, had to pay their fair share. They changed the way

people were chosen to run for office so that rich bosses could not control who got elected. They made city governments more honest and more responsible all over the nation.

The reformers also made the cities safer. They passed building codes that made apartments safer by requiring fire exits and inspections of the electrical wiring. Police and fire protection were improved. Clean water was provided for the people to drink. Hospitals were improved. Thus, the reforms made the cities better places to live.



| Reforms included improvements to the police departments.

Section 1 | 7

Unit 6 | A CHANGING NATION

**State reforms.** The success reformers had in the cities encouraged them to work for changes in state government, too. The best example of Progressive reform in a state was in Wisconsin. Before reforms began, the Wisconsin state government was controlled by the large state railroad corporations. Progressive governor Robert LaFollette changed that after he was elected in 1900.

LaFollette set up open voting in the Republican and Democratic parties to choose candidates. That stopped the railroad bosses from just choosing whom they wanted. This was called a *primary election*, and it is still the way most candidates are chosen in America today.

The Wisconsin governor also forced the railroad to pay taxes on the full value of their property. He set up government

boards to control the prices charged by the railroads and investigate wrongdoing. He set up civil service reform for state jobs, too. Other reforms included *recall elections*, where the voters could remove a politician they did not want in office any more, and *referendums*, where the people could force the government to make a certain law they wanted. These state reforms swept across the nation in the early 1900s.

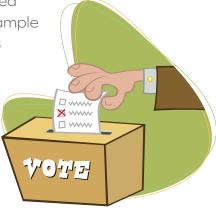
**Other reforms.** People in America began to want many changes once they realized that the government was going to listen to them. Writers called "Muckrakers" wrote stories about the many things that were wrong in America, and the public pushed for more changes. The writers found evidence of cheating by politicians and businessmen. The evidence was then used to arrest them or at least stop them from doing more. Laws were passed to stop children from working in factories and to shorten the number of hours worked by the men and women. Other laws forced businesses that handled food to keep it clean and fresh. People were forced to stop

| 'Muckrakers' helped to expose and remove corruption like child labor.

selling fake medicines, and many states began to forbid the sale of alcoholic drinks like whiskey.

**Unions.** Today in America workers are usually treated with a certain amount of respect by their employers. They can expect to be paid a fair wage. They get a certain number of days each year that they will be paid if they are sick or go on vacation. Many large employers have pension plans to provide for workers when they are too old to work and medical plans to pay for doctor bills. The standard working day is 8 hours long, and many workers get paid higher





| The primary election came

out of the reforms.

wages for any hours they have to work over that. None of these things were common during the Gilded Age. It was the work of the Progressive reformers and unions that made all these things possible for American workers.

Unions are groups formed by workers to get better pay and working conditions. The workers all agree to let one person from the union **negotiate** with the factory owners to set the pay for everyone. If the owner does not give the workers what they want, then they all go on **strike**. An employer has no trouble if one worker refuses to work, but he has lots of trouble if all the workers refuse at the same time. This forces him to pay attention to what the workers want.

Unions had a hard time getting started in America. Rich industrialists did not want to



| Unions allowed workers to band together and bargain for fair treatment.

pay workers very much. They realized that unions and strikes could force them to pay better wages, so the owners tried hard to stop workers from joining unions. They would fire any workers that tried to join a union. They used their power with the law to get the police to stop the unions and the courts to forbid strikes. They would hire thugs to attack and beat men who did go on strike. One rich man boasted that he could hire half of the working people to kill the other half!

Unions began seriously organizing as the large industries grew after the Civil War. One of the first to gain support all over the nation was the Knights of Labor, which was organized in 1869; however, it did not survive. The first large, successful union in America was a group of unions called the American Federation of Labor, led by Samuel Gompers.

The AF of L was organized in 1886. It set simple goals like an 8-hour work day, fair pay, and safer work places. By joining men into one large group of unions, the AF of L could raise more money from **dues** to support the workers during a long strike. Gompers slowly won the respect and support of many of the American workers. The American people also began to realize that many of the union demands were very reasonable. Nevertheless, it would take years of strikes and battles with owners before unions would be fully accepted and protected by law in America. However, their work and the reforms of the Progressive Era gradually improved the lives of ordinary working people.

Name the person, item,	or thing.
1.1	_ Time of reforms in America at the end of the 19th century
1.2	_ Men who controlled the cities before the reforms
1.3	_ Reform governor of Wisconsin
1.4	_ Writers who published stories about things that were wrong in America
1.5	_ One of the first nationwide unions, organized in 1869
1.6	_ Open voting within a political party to choose a candidate
1.7	_ Leader of the AF of L
1.8	_ Allowed the voters to remove a politician they did not want in office any more
1.9	_ AF of L's full name
1.10	_ The voters force the government to make a law they want



### Answer true or false.

1.11		Eight-hour	days and	pensions were	common in th	ne Gilded Age
------	--	------------	----------	---------------	--------------	---------------

- **1.12** Progressive reforms did little to help the cities.
- **1.13** Progressive reforms occurred in many different places.
- **1.14** \_\_\_\_\_ State reforms included controlling the railroads.
- **1.15** Industrial owners liked unions.
- **1.16** Unions used strikes to force employers to meet their demands.
- **1.17** Factory owners sometimes hired thugs to beat up workers who went on strike.

## **Spanish-American War**

**Changes.** While America was changing on the inside, it was also changing how it stood with the other nations of the world. The United States had been a fairly weak nation before the Civil War. Most of its people were farmers. Its industries were small, as were its army and navy. The rich, powerful nations of Europe thought America was a rough, backwards place. They were largely correct, too—at least before the Civil War. After that war, America quickly became a rich, industrial nation. That made it more powerful and capable of doing more of what it wanted in the rest of the world. Historians say that one event marked the point that America was accepted as a world power. That event was the *Spanish-American War* of 1898.

**The Yellow Press.** The island of Cuba in the Caribbean Sea was a colony of Spain. It was one of the last parts of the huge empire Spain once owned from Mexico to South America. The people of Cuba did not like having Spain rule over them. They had rebelled many times, but they had never been strong enough to force Spain to give them independence.

A new Cuban rebellion began in 1895. This time stories about the rebellion were widely published in America by what was called the "Yellow **Press**." The Yellow Press were newspapers that published wild, shocking, and attention-getting stories with very little attention to their truth. The stories about Cuba told of horrible abuses of men, women, and children (some of them true). The articles never told the Spanish side of the story. The stories continued until the American public was furious about the cruelty taking place so close to their homeland. They pressed Congress to do something to help the poor Cuban patriots.

**Remember the Maine!** In 1898 riots on the island put the many Americans who lived and worked there in danger. As a precaution, the navy sent the battleship *Maine* into the harbor of the Cuban capital, Havana. On the night of February 15, 1898, the *Maine* suddenly blew up, killing about 250 American seamen.

The Yellow Press immediately blamed Spain. A Spanish investigation said it was an accident while the Americans claimed it was a **mine**. No one will ever know for sure which it was. However, the evidence does make it look more like an accident.

The Yellow Press argued that Spain had murdered American sailors. "Remember the Maine" was the cry all over the country. The public demanded war. President William McKinley had fought in the Civil War and did not want to start another one. However, he gave in to the

huge outcry by the American people. In April of 1898, he asked Congress to declare war and it did.



| Remember the *Maine*!

**The Philippines.** The United States had a fairly good navy at the time the war began, made up of modern, steel ships. Under the command of Admiral George Dewey, the American fleet in the Pacific attacked the Spanish islands of the Philippines in May of 1898. Dewey easily sank the Spanish fleet defending the islands in Manila harbor without the loss of a single American sailor. An overjoyed Congress annexed the islands in July. Troops sent from America finally arrived to occupy them in August, taking up their places the day after the war ended.

Cuba. The Spanish fleet sent to protect Cuba moved into the harbor of Santiago on the

southeastern end of the island. The more powerful American fleet blockaded the mouth of the harbor, holding the Spanish ships in place. The only way to force the fleet out was to capture the city by land. Therefore, a U.S. army of about 17,000 men was landed near the city in June.

Among the men in that army were a regiment of volunteers called the "Rough Riders." They were an assortment of cowboys and thrillseekers organized by a politician named Theodore Roosevelt. Roosevelt was a strongwilled, active, enthusiastic man who had resigned from the Navy Department just so he could get into this war. The Rough Riders were a **cavalry** unit, but arrived in Cuba without their horses, so they had to walk into battle.

Under the command of General William Shafter, the army divided into two parts and



| Theodore Roosevelt would later become president.

attacked the defenses on the hills near the city in July. The Rough Riders, with Colonel Theodore Roosevelt in the lead, charged straight up one of the hills, suffering many casualties. Called the "Charge up San Juan Hill," the battle made Roosevelt and the Rough Riders famous. The

Americans won control of the hills and were now threatening the city.

The Spanish fleet left the harbor in an attempt to escape. They were chased and sunk by the faster American navy. Hundreds of Spanish sailors and only one American died. Santiago and the Spanish army surrendered, giving America control of Cuba.

The U.S. also invaded and captured the Spanish islands of Puerto Rico and Guam.



| Land/sea war at Santiago, Cuba

Spain realized she had no chance and signed an **armistice** on August 12, 1898. The war had lasted just four months. The treaty that was signed later gave Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines to the U.S. Cuba was given its freedom, but it would be dominated by the U.S. for many years.

**Results.** The U.S. had been a colony of Great Britain. It had fought for its independence and had never made any of its new lands into colonies. All the territories taken by the U.S. had been allowed to become states and share as equal partners in the nation. That changed with the Spanish-American War. America liked the feeling of being a world power with overseas colonies. The government decided to keep Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines as colonies, not as states. The army was even sent into the Philippines to crush a revolt when the islanders dared to fight for their own freedom. The Philippines did not become independent until 1946.

The American democracy had soundly defeated one of the old powers of Europe. From that time forward, America was thought of as one of the more powerful nations on earth. The new colonies made the nation feel that it was now as good as the colonial powers of Europe. America's strength had been growing for many years. The Spanish-American War was like a party celebrating the fact that the nation was now full grown.



### Complete these sentences.

1.18	The newspapers that printed wild, shocking stories without worrying about the truth			
	were called the			
1.19	The four islands captured by the Americans in the Spanish-American War were			
	·			
1.20	The leader of the Rough Riders was			
	The commander of the U.S. Army in Cuba was			
1.21	America kept the islands given to them by Spain as ,			
	not states.			
1.22	The war started after the battleship blew up in Havana harbor.			
1.23	was president during the war.			
1.24	The Spanish-American War marked the point that America was accepted as a			

1.25	The Spanish-American War las	ted for	months during the year o	f	
	·				
1.26	Admirals	sunk the Spanish fleet	in Manila harbor.		
1.27	Roosevelt and the Rough Riders became famous for the				
1.28	The people of	were fighting Spain fo	r their freedom beginning	in	
	1895.				
1.29	The United States crushed a re did not give the islands their fre		(	and	
1.30	The battle cry of the nation was	6	·		

### **Progressive Presidents**

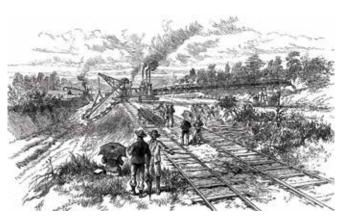
**Roosevelt.** President William McKinley was not a Progressive reformer. He helped raise the tariff, would not break up trusts, and ignored calls for reform. He was so popular with businessmen that he easily raised huge amounts of money to run his successful Republican campaigns for president in 1896 and 1900. However, in 1900 Theodore Roosevelt was chosen as his vice president.

Roosevelt was a reformer. He had earned a reputation as an honest, hard-working public servant during his years in politics. He was also a popular war hero, so the Republican party bosses put him into the vice president's job because it had no power. They thought he would please the voters, but would not be able to do anything. It was a nice, safe job to keep him out of their way. However, in September of 1901, McKinley was assassinated and Theodore Roosevelt became twenty-sixth president of the United States.



Theodore Roosevelt

Theodore Roosevelt was a loud, pushy, and popular president. He promptly began to pursue Progressive reforms in the national government. He began by really using the Sherman Anti-Trust Act. He was the first president to actually use the law to force important trusts to break up into smaller companies. He sued one of J.P. Morgan's companies in 1902 that controlled most of the railroads in the northwest. He finally won in the Supreme Court in 1904, the law's first major victory. Roosevelt and the other



| Building of the Panama Canal.

Progressive presidents would sue dozens of trusts under the Sherman Anti-Trust Act and would break up some of the worst ones.

Roosevelt also began to finally control the abuses of the national railroads. The Elkins Act of 1903 forbade the railroads to give **rebates** to big shippers. Standard Oil was fined under this law. The Hepburn Act of 1906 gave some real power to the Interstate Commerce Commission which began to control railroad fees.

Roosevelt also showed his Progressive ideas in other areas. When coal miners went on strike in 1902, he forced the owners to give them a fair hearing. He was a leader in conservation, setting aside millions of acres of wilderness for national parks. He also passed laws requiring federal inspection of meat and standards of purity for canned foods and drugs. He called his policies the "Square Deal."

Roosevelt also believed that America was a world power and should act like it. His policy was, "Speak softly and carry a big stick." It meant that he was not afraid to act with force if negotiations failed. The best known of his "Big Stick" policies was how he acquired land for the Panama Canal.

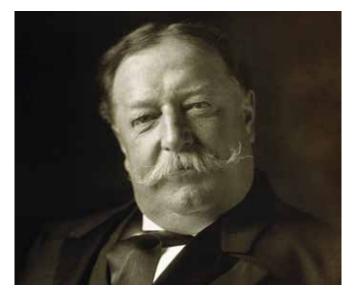
Ships from the east coast of America that wanted to get to the west coast had to sail all the way around South America in 1900. Especially after taking the Philippines in 1898, the U.S. government wanted to build a canal across the Isthmus of Panama. Such a canal would cut thousands of miles and weeks of travel off of an ocean trip from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean.

Roosevelt offered to pay Colombia \$10 million plus \$250,000 a year in rent for a strip of land across Panama, which they owned, for a canal. Colombia refused, so Roosevelt sent the navy in to help the people of Panama rebel against Colombia in 1903. The new Panamanian government quickly signed the treaty that Colombia had refused. The canal was finished in 1914 at a cost of \$400 million.

### Unit 6 | A CHANGING NATION

**Taft.** Roosevelt decided not to run for president in 1908. However, he was popular enough that he was able to choose the man who would be the next president. He chose his friend William Howard Taft. After the election, Roosevelt took off to hunt lions in Africa. His many enemies toasted the good health of the lions!

Taft continued "trust-busting." He started even more anti-trust actions than Roosevelt had. While Taft was president Standard Oil was finally forced to break apart. Taft also tried to reduce the tariff, but had very little success. The nasty fight over the issue made him many enemies. Also, during



| William Howard Taft

Taft's administration, two new amendments were added to the Constitution. The Sixteenth allowed income taxes so that the rich, who had been avoiding taxes, were forced to pay. The Seventeenth allowed U.S. voters to finally elect their Senators (they had been appointed by the state legislature before that). Thus, Taft continued the Progressive reforms.

However, Taft lost the support of the Progressives for several reasons. He undid some of Roosevelt's conservation efforts because they were not quite legal. That made Roosevelt furious. He also did not seek reforms in the loud, pushy way Roosevelt had because he was a quieter man. Roosevelt became so angry that he announced he would run for president against Taft in 1912.

Taft won the Republican nomination for president in spite of Roosevelt's best efforts, so Roosevelt ran under the Progressive Party. His party was called the Bull Moose Party because Roosevelt said he felt "as strong as a Bull Moose." The two men split the Republican vote between them so that neither had enough votes to win. Instead, they allowed the Democratic candidate to win the election.

**Wilson.** The Democrats wisely chose Woodrow Wilson to be their candidate in 1912. He was the Progressive governor of New Jersey at the time. He was the last of the three Progressive presidents.

Wilson and the Democratic Congress succeeded in seriously reducing the tariff for the first time since big business had come to power during the Civil War. He set up a new federal banking system called the Federal Reserve System that is still used today. He also improved the anti-trust laws, restricted child labor, and protected unions. Wilson was probably the most successful of the Progressive presidents, but he had the advantage of being able to build on the earlier work. The Progressive Era, which controlled some of the industrial problems, ended when World War I pushed reform out of the minds of the people.

1	Choose th	e letter for the correct man.		
1.31		_ "Speak softly and carry a big stick."	a.	Theodore Roosevelt
1.32		_ Democrat	b. c.	William Taft William McKinley
1.33		_ Not a Progressive president		Woodrow Wilson
1.34		_ Income tax amendment passed		
1.35		_ Federal Reserve System		
1.36		_ Major reduction of the tariff		
1.37		_ Republican candidate in 1912		
1.38		_ First major success of the Sherman Anti-Trust A	Act	
1.39		_ Direct election of senators amendment passed	b	
1.40		_ Elkins Act, forbid rebates for large shippers		
1.41		_ Assassinated in 1901		
1.42		_ Hepburn Act, gave power to the Interstate Co	mme	erce Commission
1.43		_ Bull Moose Party candidate		
1.44		_ Won when the Republican vote was split betwe	een	two other men
1.45		_ Standard Oil was broken up while he was presi	den	t
1.46		_ Helped Panama rebel to get land for a canal		
1.47		_ Square Deal		
1.48		_ Tried with little success to reduce the tariff		
1.49		_ Lost the support of the Progressives while he w	vas p	president
1.50		_ Chose the president who came after him		
1.51		_ Made vice-president to keep him out of the wo	аy	



**Review the material in this section to prepare for the Self Test.** The Self Test will check your understanding of this section. Any items you miss on this test will show you what areas you will need to restudy in order to prepare for the unit test.

# **SELF TEST 1**

**Match these people.** Some answers will be used more than once (each answer, 3 points).

1.01		Wisconsin governor, reformer	a.	William McKinley
1.02		Rough Rider	b.	Robert LaFollette
1.03		President during the Spanish-American	C.	Samuel Gompers
				Theodore Roosevelt
1.04		Destroyed the Spanish fleet in Manila	e.	George Dewey
1.04		harbor	f.	William Taft
1.05		Began the first major successful Anti-	g.	Woodrow Wilson
1.05		Trust suits		William Shafter
1.06		Head of the American Federation of Labor		
1.07		Commanded the U.S. army in Cuba		
1.08		Federal Reserve Act, reduced the tariff		
1.09		Chosen by Theodore Roosevelt to follow him in	offic	ce
1.010		President who was not interested in reforms		

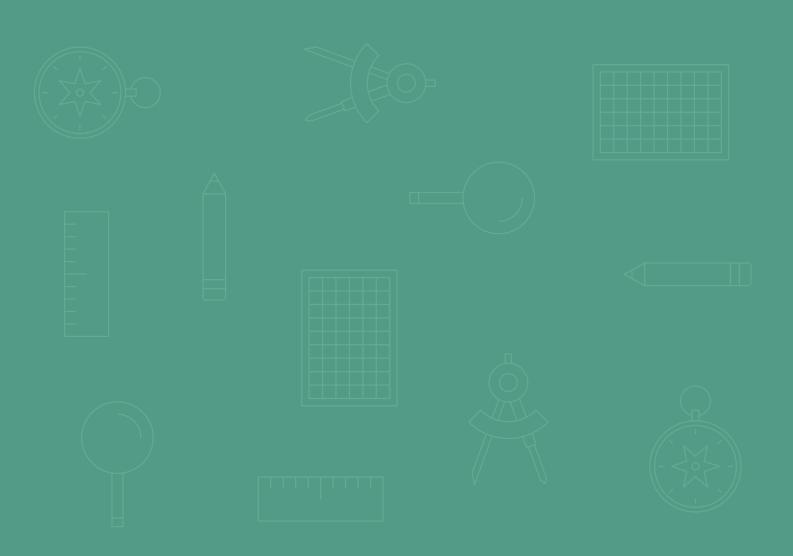
**Choose the correct answer from the box** (each answer, 3 points).

	ssive ndum Press	Square Deal	Muckrakers recall election			
1.011	The		Era w	ras a time of reforms at the end of		
	the 19th c	entury and the begin	ning of the 20th.			
1.012	The		printe	ed stories that were wild and		
	shocking w	vithout worrying abou	ut the truth.			
1.013	Before refo	orms began in the citi	ies, they were contro	lled by		
1.014			were writers wh	o printed stories about the things		
	that were v	wrong in America.				
1.015	Theodore I	Roosevelt called his p	policies the	·		
1.016	Α		_allows the voters to	force the government to make a		
	law they w	ant.				
1.017	A allows workers to band together to get better wages and					
	working co	nditions by threateni	ing to strike.			
1.018	A allows voters to remove a politician from office					
	after he is e	elected.				
1.019	The was built after the U.S. navy helped the					
	people of t	he land rebel agains <sup>.</sup>	t Colombia.			
1.020	Political parties vote on who will be their candidate in a					
		·				
Complet	te these ite	<b>ms</b> (each answer, 4	points).			
-						
1.021	Name two	changes the reforme	ers made in the cities	5		
1 000			in al tra stra stra			
1.022	Name two	ways industrialists tri	ied to stop unions			

<b>1.023</b> What event got America into the Spanish-American War?	
--	--

- **1.024** Name two of the islands or archipelagoes that became U.S. colonies after the Spanish-American War.
- **1.025** Why did the party bosses make Theodore Roosevelt vice president?\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.026 Name two of the Progressive presidents.
- 1.027 Why did reforms begin in America?\_\_\_\_\_
- **1.028** What event marked the point that America was recognized as a world power?
- 1.029 When did unions begin to seriously organize in America?
- **1.030** How was the Spanish fleet at Santiago, Cuba, destroyed during the Spanish-American War?

Teacher check:	Initials	80
Score	Date	100



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