

US History: Unit 5 Vocabulary and Terms

Name:

#1

Instructions: Define, describe or explain the significance of each term.

1. Gilded Age

2. Stalwarts, Half-breeds & Mugwumps

3. Political Machines

4. Pendleton Civil Service Act

5. Sherman Anti-Trust Act

6. Laissez-Faire Economics

7. Vertical & Horizontal Integration

8. Monopolies & Trusts

9. John D. Rockefeller & Standard Oil

10. Andrew Carnegie & Gospel of Wealth

11. J.P Morgan

12. Robber Barons

13. Social Darwinism

14. Sweat Shops

15. Trade Unions & Craft Unions (similarities & differences)

16. Collective Bargaining

17. American Federation of Labor

18. Haymarket Riot

19. Pullman Strike

20. Eugene V. Debs

21. Ellis Island

22. Settlement Houses

23. Nativism

24. Chinese Exclusion Act

25. Tenements

26. Jane Addams

27. Muckrakers

28. Jacob Riis

The Gilded Age will be remembered for the accomplishments of thousands of American thinkers, inventors, entrepreneurs, writers, and promoters of social justice. Few politicians had an impact on the tremendous change transforming America. The Presidency was at an all-time low in power and influence, and the Congress was rife with corruption. State and city leaders shared in the graft, and the public was kept largely unaware. Much like in the colonial days, Americans were not taking their orders from the top; rather, they were building a new society from its foundation.

The American Presidents who resided in the White House from the end of the Civil War until the 1890s are sometimes called "the forgettable Presidents." A case-by-case study helps illustrate this point.

Andrew Johnson was so hated he was impeached and would have been removed from office were it not for a single Senate vote.

A Soldier in the White House

Ulysses S. Grant was a war hero but was unprepared for public office. He had not held a single elected office prior to the Presidency and was totally naive to the workings of Washington. He relied heavily on the advice of insiders who were stealing public money. His secretary of war sold Indian land to investors and pocketed public money. His private secretary worked with officials in the Treasury Department to steal money raised from the tax on whiskey.

Many members of his Administration were implicated in the *Crédit Mobilier* scandal, which defrauded the American public of common land. Grant himself seemed above these scandals, but lacked the political skill to control his staff or replace them with officers of integrity.

Electoral Woes

Rutherford B. Hayes was elected in 1876 by a margin of one electoral vote. Hayes himself had tremendous integrity, but his Presidency was weakened by the means of his election. After the electoral votes were counted, his opponent, Samuel Tilden, already claimed a majority of the popular vote and needed just one electoral vote to win. Hayes needed twenty. Precisely twenty electoral votes were in dispute because the states submitted double returns — one proclaiming Hayes the victor, the other Tilden. A Republican-biased electoral commission awarded all 20 electoral votes to the Republican Hayes, and he won by just one electoral vote.

While he was able to claim the White House, many considered his election a fraud, and his power to rule was diminished.

Assassination

James Garfield succeeded Hayes to the Presidency. After only four months, his life was cut short by an assassin's bullet. Charles Guiteau, the killer, was so upset with Garfield for overlooking him for a political job that he shot the President in cold blood on the platform of the Baltimore and Potomac train station.

Vice-President Chester Arthur became the next leader. Although his political history was largely composed of appointments of friends, the tragedy that befell his predecessor led him to believe that the system had gone bad. He signed into law the Pendleton Civil Service Act, which opened many jobs to competitive exam rather than political connections. The Republican Party rewarded him by refusing his nomination for the Presidency in 1884.

One President impeached, one President drowning in corruption, one President elected by possible fraud, one President assassinated, and one disgraced by his own party for doing what he thought was right. Clearly this was not a good time in Presidential history.

Congressional Supremacy

This was an era of Congressional supremacy. The Republican Party dominated the Presidency and the Congress for most of these years. Both houses of Congress were full of representatives owned by big business.

Laws regulating campaigns were minimal and big money bought a government that would not interfere. Similar conditions existed in the states. City governments were dominated by political machines. Members of a small network gained power and used the public treasury to stay in power — and grow fabulously rich in the process.

Not until the dawn of the 20th century would serious attempts be made to correct the abuses of Gilded Age government.

The "Forgettable" Presidents: For each president either write a short summary or draw a picture to help you REMEMBER important facts about their presidency. Focus on problems or difficulties they had to deal with.

Andrew Johnson

Ulysses S. Grant

Rutherford B. Hayes

James Garfield

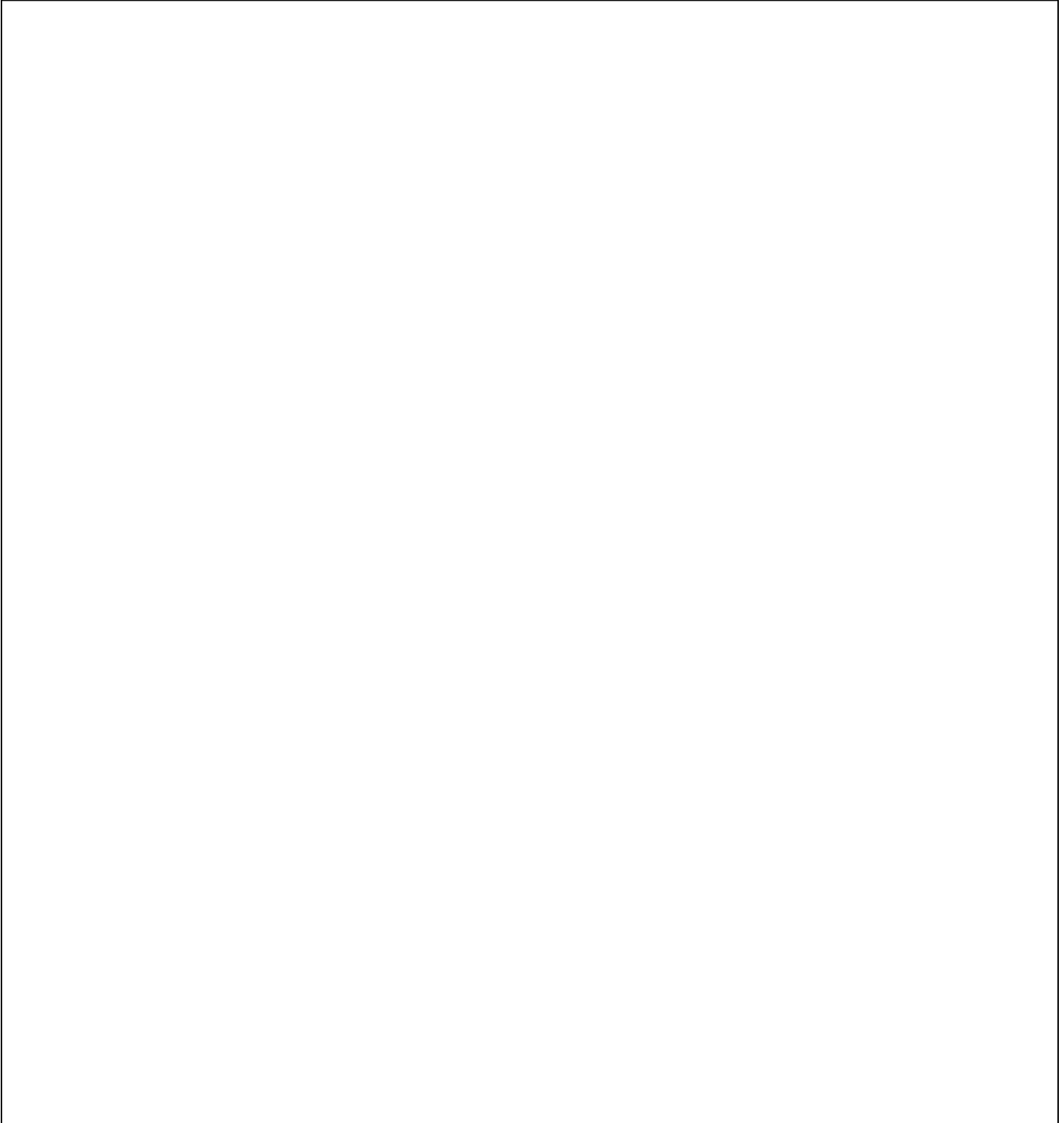
Chester Arthur

Congressional Supremacy (explain what was happening with Congress during this time)

Gilded Age Politics

#3

1. Which political party, that we have recently learned about talked about would you have associated yourself with?
(Populist, Stalwarts, Half-breeds or Mugwumps)
2. Why?
3. Create a poster advocating FOR the spoils system or for civil service reform. Be sure to mention the Pendleton Act.

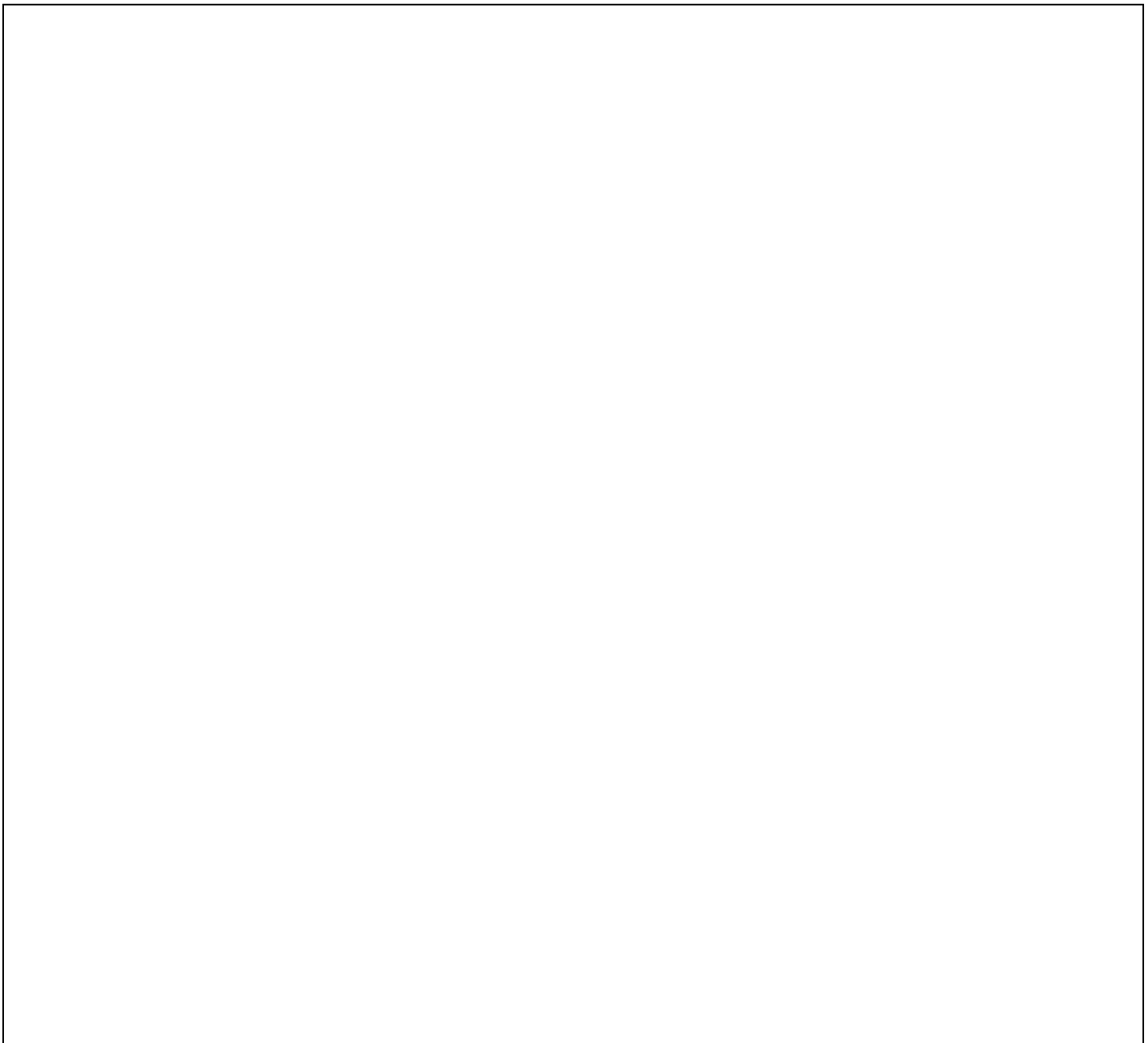
A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the student to create a poster as instructed in question 3. The box occupies the lower two-thirds of the page.

Gilded Age Economics (Use p. 314-5)

1. Explain how Rockefeller used horizontal integration in his company

2. Give three examples of how he used vertical integration in his company
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

3. Diagram it: Imagine that you are a business person who wants to make as much money as possible!
 - Draw up **two** possible scenarios for your business using Vertical vs. Horizontal integration.
 - Your business must include at least 6 parts
 - You must draw it and color it
 - You must show it become vertically & horizontally integrated.
 - Finally: Which method is better for your business and why? _____



Andrew Carnegie: The Gospel of Wealth, 1889

#4

The problem of our age is the administration of wealth, so that the ties of brotherhood may still bind together the rich and poor in harmonious relationship. The conditions of human life have not only been changed, but revolutionized, within the past few hundred years. In former days there was little difference between the dwelling, dress, food, and environment of the chief and those of his retainers...The contrast between the palace of the millionaire and the cottage of the laborer with us today measures the change which has come with civilization.

This change, however, is not to be deplored, but welcomed as highly beneficial. It is well, nay, essential for the progress of the race, that the houses of some should be homes for all that is highest and best in literature and the arts, and for all the refinements of civilization, rather than that none should be so. Much better this great irregularity than universal squalor. Without wealth there can be no Maecenas [*Note: a rich Roman patron of the arts*]. The "good old times" were not good old times. Neither master nor servant was as well situated then as to day. A relapse to old conditions would be disastrous to both-not the least so to him who serves-and would sweep away civilization with it...

We start, then, with a condition of affairs under which the best interests of the race are promoted, but which inevitably gives wealth to the few. Thus far, accepting conditions as they exist, the situation can be surveyed and pronounced good. The question then arises...What is the proper mode of administering wealth after the laws upon which civilization is founded have thrown it into the hands of the few? And it is of this great question that I believe I offer the true solution...

There are but three modes in which surplus wealth can be disposed of. It can be left to the families of the decedents; or it can be bequeathed for public purposes; or, finally, it can be administered during their lives by its possessors. Under the first and second modes most of the wealth of the world that has reached the few has hitherto been applied. Let us in turn consider each of these modes. The first is the most injudicious. In monarchical countries, the estates and the greatest portion of the wealth are left to the first son, that the vanity of the parent may be gratified by the thought that his name and title are to descend to succeeding generations unimpaired. The condition of this class in Europe today teaches the futility of such hopes or ambitions. The successors have become impoverished through their follies or from the fall in the value of land.... Why should men leave great fortunes to their children? If this is done from affection, is it not misguided affection? Observation teaches that, generally speaking, it is not well for the children that they should be so burdened. Neither is it well for the state. Beyond providing for the wife and daughters moderate sources of income, and very moderate allowances indeed, if any, for the sons, men may well hesitate, for it is no longer questionable that great sums bequeathed oftener work more for the injury than for the good of the recipients. Wise men will soon conclude that, for the best interests of the members of their families and of the state, such bequests are an improper use of their means...

As to the second mode, that of leaving wealth at death for public uses, it may be said that this is only a means for the disposal of wealth, provided a man is content to wait until he is dead before it becomes of much good in the world.... The cases are not few in which the real object sought by the testator is not attained, nor are they few in which his real wishes are thwarted...The growing disposition to tax more and more heavily large estates left at death is a cheering indication of the growth of a salutary change in public opinion...Men who continue hoarding great sums all their lives, the proper use of which for public ends would work good to the community, should be made to feel that the community, in the form of the state, cannot thus be deprived of its proper share. By taxing estates heavily at death, the state marks its condemnation of the selfish millionaire's unworthy life...This policy would work powerfully to induce the rich man to attend to the administration of wealth during his life, which is the end that society should always have in view, as being that by far most fruitful for the people....

There remains, then, only one mode of using great fortunes: but in this way we have the true antidote for the temporary unequal distribution of wealth, the reconciliation of the rich and the poor...It is founded upon the present most intense individualism..Under its sway we shall have an ideal state, in which the surplus wealth of the few will become, in the best sense, the property of the many, because administered for the common good, and this wealth, passing through the hands of the few, can be made a much more potent force for the elevation of our race than if it had been distributed in small sums to the people themselves. Even the poorest can be made to see this, and to agree that great sums gathered by some of their fellow citizens and spent for public purposes, from which the masses reap the principal benefit, are more valuable to them than if scattered among them through the course of many years in trifling amounts...

This, then, is held to be the duty of the man of Wealth: First, to set an example of modest, unostentatious living, shunning display or extravagance; to provide moderately for the legitimate wants of those dependent upon him; and after doing so to consider all surplus revenues which come to him simply as trust funds, which he is called upon to administer, and strictly bound as a matter of duty to administer in the manner which, in his judgment, is best calculated to produce the most beneficial result for the community-the man of wealth thus becoming the sole agent and trustee for his poorer brethren, bringing to their service his superior wisdom, experience, and ability to administer-doing for them better than they would or could do for themselves.

- Andrew Carnegie, "Wealth," *North American Review*, 148, no. 391 (June 1889): 653, 657-62.

A commentary on immigration

In 1882, embracing racist and white supremacist ideas about a "Yellow Peril," the U.S. Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act. Just four years later an inscription on the Statue of Liberty declared, "give us your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

It seems that Americans' mixed feelings about immigrants must date to at least May 14, 1607. On that day 103 Englishmen landed in Virginia. Native Americans soon learned that these illegal immigrants had arrived and were constructing a fort on land that did not belong to them. During the following years, contacts between Native Americans were at times pleasant, but more often produced savage warfare.

On Thanksgiving Day, 1795, President George Washington urged Americans to pray for the U.S. to become "a safe...asylum for the unfortunate of other countries." But by the 1830s and 1840s nativist American rioters were burning Catholic churches in Massachusetts and Philadelphia and forming organizations to oppose the growing number of German and Irish immigrants arriving in the U.S. ("Nativists" are those who regard themselves as native, or original, Americans, and who give preference to "natives" over newer immigrants.) Groups like the Know-Nothings of the mid-19th century organized around negative stereotypes of immigrants and promoted anti-immigrant policies.

More than 98 percent of Americans are immigrants or are descended from them, and most Americans are quite aware of this. But while Americans frequently celebrate their diversity, they have also reacted negatively when people who look a little different from themselves arrive in their neighborhood, speak English poorly or not at all, eat foods that look peculiar to them, and have customs that seem strange (because the foods and customs are different from theirs).

There are several common reasons for this negativity:

Economic: Newcomers in the 19th century took away from citizens jobs on roads and canals and other hard labor work because, out of necessity, they were willing to work for less pay. Today, undocumented immigrants continue to do very hard jobs for very low pay (such as farm work and meatpacking). But business groups and employers then and now have welcomed this cheap labor. Studies have found that immigrants' low wages don't affect other workers' wages as much as some people believe.

Religious: Most of the earliest settlers were Protestants. The later arrival, for example, of Catholics led nativist Protestants to believe that the pope intended to flood the country with his co-religionists and destroy American freedoms. This ignorant belief only helped breed more bigotry.

Political: When large numbers of immigrants have entered the U.S., they have gradually become a threat to politicians who have position, power, and influence and fear they will lose it to the newcomers.

Skin color: In America, whites ruled, blacks were enslaved, dark or yellow-skinned people of any background likely to be exploited, viewed as inferior and subject to stereotyping. #5

Today most Americans can probably agree that the U.S. system of immigration law has not been enforced and is broken. They would also probably agree that despite various proposals to fix the system, elected officials have been unable to agree upon anything other than to create a 700-mile barrier along the U.S.-Mexico border that includes aerial surveillance, sensors, and a beefed up patrol force. (Despite all this, illegal immigrants keep getting in anyway, even if in smaller numbers.) Some proponents of these measures say that they are necessary to prevent terrorists from entering the country. But nobody has suggested a similar barrier on the 4,000-mile U.S.-Canada land border.

Questions:

1. Explain the conflict of ideas in the first paragraph of this reading:
 - a. What was America's first encounter with illegal immigration?
 - b. Had you ever thought of the issue in this way?
3. What groups of people were the Nativists attacking?
4. What did the Know-Nothings believe?
5. How many Americans are immigrants or descendants of immigrants?
6. What are the main things that make people react negatively to immigrants?
7. Summarize the issues:
 - a. Economic:
 - b. Religious:
 - c. Political:
 - d. Skin color:

Choose **ONE** task to complete for a grade. You may use this sheet or staple another paper to it.

#6

1. Imagine you are a new immigrant to the United States. You and your family board a ship bound for America. Create a journal entry describing why you immigrated (push/pull factors), your passage to the U.S., processing through Ellis or Angel Island, and then how you are going to create a life for yourselves and your family.
2. Create a political cartoon based on anything that we have discussed, including Unions, Native Americans rights, African American rights, Political Parties, Robber Barons, or the Gilded Age. The cartoon must be colored and occupy the entire piece of a white sheet of paper.
3. In an essay analyze the role of government in big business during the Industrial Age and now. How does the government affect trade, labor, and workers rights now? How did the government affect trade, workers rights, and labor back then? Compare and contrast these two points as well as how the United States transformed itself from an industrial weakling to an industrial power house.
4. Create a comic strip that shows change & reform during the 2nd Industrial Revolution. Show how conditions in the country caused a change in: businesses, unions, cities and politics. Did these changes help or hurt the country? Are any of the reforms that began in the Gilded Age still prevalent today?
5. How did the inventions and people of the Industrial Age influence later American society? Analyze the effects of the different people and show how their business practices and inventions still continue to shape American culture even today. You can do this through words and pictures together, just pictures or just words.