

## Progressive “Super” Presidents

Using Chapter 8 in your textbook and the notes contained below, research the three Progressive Era Presidents – Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and Woodrow Wilson.

Use the chart on the other side of this paper to record your research about each President.

Then Pick one president of the three, and do the following:

1. Give him a superhero name – based on the Progressive Era reforms made while he was president. For example, if you were making a superhero out of President George Washington, you could call him “Constitution Man,” because he was chairman of the Constitutional Convention and the first man to become President of the United States of America.

2. Draw the president as the superhero – he will need a costume and other super attributes -fighting his nemesis.

3. Give him a superhero slogan that describes some of the PROGRESSIVE REFORMS he enacted while president. For example, Superman can “leap tall buildings in a single bound” or George Washington can “defeat British armies and run major democracies, even while wearing wooden teeth!”

4. Superheroes also have arch enemies or an evil nemesis. Describe the president's evil nemesis – “Urban Poverty Demon” for example. (You can’t use this one!)

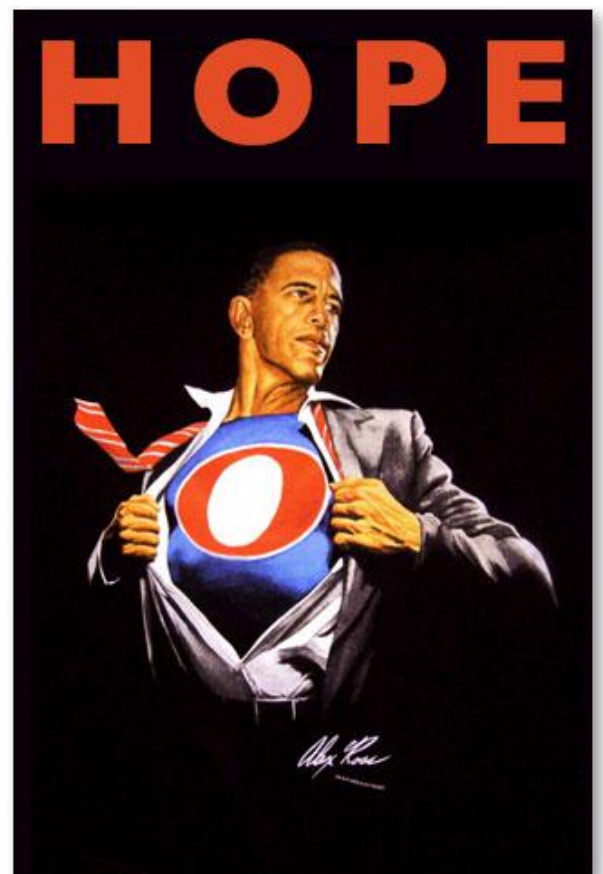
a) Tell how the nemesis got his name and describe five of the evil things he has done. These evils will, of course, be some of the problems present during your superhero’s administration.

b) For example, Superman’s arch enemy is Lex Luthor. George Washington’s arch enemy was George III. You could call him “Tyrant Man,” and then tell how he got his name.

5. Describe one of your superhero president’s sidekicks. Batman’s sidekick was Robin. Your superhero’s sidekick will be one of the *muckrakers* who wrote during the superhero president’s term of office. Give the *muckraker* a sidekick name that indicates what problem he/she wrote about. (Refer to the Progressive Era notes for more information on muckrakers).

6. Describe how the superhero president defeated his evil nemesis and what super tools he used to do so. (Hint: these tools are the reforms and laws passed while your superhero was in office).

7. Turn in your research and your superheroes during the class period after next.



<b>President (biography)</b>	<b>Challenges/Issues</b>	<b>Reforms &amp; Laws Enacted</b>
<b>Theodore Roosevelt</b>		
<b>William Howard Taft</b>		
<b>Woodrow Wilson</b>		

## The Progressive Era

- I. Definition – the middle class feels those above are abusing the system and those below are becoming a Socialist threat – must have government become an “agency of human welfare”
- II. Progressive Roots
  - A. Jane Addams – Hull House – starts Settlement House movement
    - 1. Neighborhood activities, counseling, childcare, education for the poor
  - B. Protestant Clergymen – “Social Gospel” – “Christian Socialists” – God says must help society
  - C. Greenback Labor Party 1870s and Populists 1890s – demanded social help
  - D. Nation becoming frustrated with monopolies
  - E. Prided individualism to justify inaction no longer makes sense in machine age
  - F. *How the Other Half Lives* – Jacob Riis – shows life of poor
- III. Muckrakers – publishers make money off exposing ills of society – term given by Teddy Roosevelt
  - A. Magazines – McClure's, Cosmopolitan, Colliers
    - 1. Lincoln Steffens – *Shame of the Cities* – business and cities have corrupt alliance
    - 2. Ida Tarbell – *Standard Oil Company* – how monopolistic practices destroy small companies
- IV. Municipal, State, National Reform – how to solve problem that elected officials who make laws are corrupt
  - A. Initiative – propose laws, Referendum – people vote on laws, Recall – chance to remove bad officials
  - B. Laws to limit election, political gifts
  - C. Direct election of Senators to avoid “Millionaire’s Club”
  - D. Public commissioner and city manager – outside position to regulate how city is being run
  - E. Stop monopolies at city level – stop selling of streetcars and utilities to private companies
- V. Social Problems
  - A. Try to stop prostitution – force police to enforce laws
  - B. Safety, sanitation and child labor laws
    - 1. Prompted by Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire of 1911 – women trapped in factory and die
  - C. Temperance/Prohibition of Alcohol – some states and counties passing “dry laws”
    - 1. Alcohol blamed for crime, unemployment, prostitution, wasting of wages, hurts family
  - D. Women’s Suffrage – western states pass first – Suffragettes still seen as women who want to be men
  - E. African American – WEB Dubois demands immediate equality – NAACP pushes for laws
    - 1. Booker T. Washington work with system – get educated in manual labor
    - 2. Marcus Garvey – preaches black solidarity – “back to Africa” movement – black pride
- VI. Progressive Presidents
  - A. Theodore Roosevelt – a “Square Deal” for all Americans – 3 C’s
    - 1. Control of Corporations – sides with strikers in 1902 coal strike – a first
      - a. Trustbuster – 1<sup>st</sup> railroad then others – brings 44 indictments – goes to Supreme Court
    - 2. Consumer Protection – after Upton Sinclair’s – *The Jungle* - Meat Inspection Act
      - a. Pure, Food and Drug Act – can’t change or alter goods or labels on goods
    - 3. Conservation of Natural Resources – saves America’s forests
      - a. Newlands Reclamation Act – sell land and with money pay for irrigation
      - b. Saved 125 million acres of forest – actually implemented National Parks law
      - c. More efficiently balanced corporate interests with those of nature – Sierra Club
    - 4. Set precedents – social reform, used publicity to increase presidential power
  - B. William Howard Taft – bigger trustbuster than Roosevelt – 90 indictments vs. 44
    - 1. Ballinger-Pinchot controversy – Ballinger selling public land, Pinchot complains then fired
    - 2. Payne-Aldrich Tariff – actually signs bill that increases tariffs on most items – angers support
  - C. Woodrow Wilson’s New Freedom – assault on “the triple wall of privilege” – tariff, banks, trust
    - 1. Tariffs – Underwood Tariff Bill – pressured reps. to pass, graduated income tax revenue
    - 2. Banking – Federal Reserve Act 1913 – 12 regional banks run by gov’t - \$ now easily increased
    - 3. Anti-Trust Act of 1914 – Clayton Anti-Trust Act – allows for labor protests – tries to control sneaky tricks of trusts – one man runs 4-5 different companies – controls costs