PrepUS History

Unit 6 – America Expands

Captain of Industry or Robber Baron Activity

You and the members of your group will investigate three important individuals from the American Industrial Era, also known as the Gilded Age. You will examine documents at three stations and determine whether the actions of each individual were those of a Captain of Industry (a heroic entrepreneur who started a new successful business) or those of a Robber Baron (an American capitalist who enriched himself upon the sweat of others, exploited natural resources, and/or possessed unfair government influence).

Once you have accumulated evidence on each industrialist, your group will decide which industrialist best fits with your group identification (Captain of Industry or Robber Baron or BOTH). You will need to be able to explain the reasons why the industrialist you chose best fits your group’s identification.

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| **Industrialist** | **Captain of Industry Actions** | **Robber Baron Actions** |
| **Andrew Carnegie** |  |  |
| **John D. Rockefeller** |  |  |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **JP Morgan** |  |  |

**Information to Share With The Rest of the Class:**

*Here’s how you might want to write up the summary of your findings:*

*“[industrialist’s name] was a [Captain of Industry or Robber Baron] because he [business tactics he used/actions he took]…”*

*“[industrialist’s name] was a [Captain of Industry or Robber Baron] because he used the wealth he gained to [actions he took]…”*

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**Notes from other students’ presentations that you did not write in your chart:**

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| **Industrialist** | **Captain of Industry Actions** | **Robber Baron Actions** |
| **Andrew Carnegie** |  |  |
| **John D. Rockefeller** |  |  |
| **JP Morgan** |  |  |