The Progressive Era
Essential Question:
• What were the major goals, struggles, and achievements of the Progressive Era?

Standard:
• Analyze the major goals, struggles, and achievements of the Progressive Era, including attacking racial discrimination, child labor, big business, conservation, and alcohol use: Antitrust laws; 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th Amendments; immigration reform
Essential Question:

• What struggles did African Americans face during the Progressive Era?

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After the slaves were freed in 1865, African Americans were hopeful that their lives would improve. The federal government gave them new rights, and they received medicine, education, and financial assistance. Despite the fact that African Americans had legally gained new rights, they faced discrimination and segregation.
Jim Crow Laws

- Jim Crow laws required racial separation in public places such as restrooms, schools, and parks, and in public transportation.
• The Jim Crow laws were upheld in the Supreme Court. It was perfectly legal to segregate public places. When the issue was taken to the Supreme Court, it was ruled constitutional. This ruling was based on the "separate but equal" idea. This meant that there could be different facilities for whites and blacks as long as they were seen as "equal" in quality.
Ida Wells-Barnett

Ida Wells-Barnett was a former slave who was born to slaves in Mississippi. She later moved to Memphis, Tennessee. She became an important journalist. She was concerned about lynching and other cruel acts toward African Americans. She published articles and pamphlets that exposed the mistreatment of blacks.
Ida Wells-Barnett

- She was also a part of the women's suffrage movement. She started the Alpha Suffrage Club in Chicago, which was the first organization that was focused on African American women's voting rights.
Randolph Miller was a slave who became free after the Emancipation Proclamation. He moved to Tennessee in 1864 and began writing for a newspaper. He felt very strongly about segregation and civil rights restrictions. In fact, he spoke out publicly about laws segregating public transportation long before Martin Luther King Jr. Miller once wrote, "They have taken our part of the library; they have moved our school to the frog pond; they have passed the Jim Crow law; they have knocked us out of the jury box; they have played the devil generally; and what in thunder will they do no one knows."
Essential Question:
• How did people try to improve society?

Standard:
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The Progressive Movement was a time in history, roughly from the 1890s to the 1920s, in which attempts were made to improve society. It affected states all over the country. The movement symbolized reform in many different areas. Child labor, alcohol consumption, education, and workers' rights were some of the issues that people worked to address. People worked very hard to improve issues throughout society.
Progressive Reformers worked to end child labor during this time period. Children were taken advantage of in many ways in the workforce. This was because children were paid less money than adult men. Factory owners would hire children to do back-breaking work for up to 18 hours a day for very little pay.
The Sherman Antitrust Act

- The Sherman Antitrust Act, passed in 1890, was the first government action to limit monopolies. Theodore Roosevelt pushed for these types of reform laws. He wanted to break up big businesses. The government wanted to avoid the possibility of one company unfairly dominating one industry, potentially harming competition. Competition is vital because the consumer will likely receive a high quality product for a low price.
Corruption in the business world was another progressive concern. Companies were beginning to build monopolies, which meant one big business had large control over an entire product or service. Progressive leaders such as President Teddy Roosevelt worked to break up these monopolies.
Prohibition

• The Temperance Movement tried to urge people to stay away from alcohol altogether in order to form a safer and more productive society with good moral standings.
Prohibition

• The Eighteenth Amendment began Prohibition, in which it was illegal to make or sell any alcoholic beverages.
Prohibition

• The Twenty-First Amendment repealed the Eighteenth Amendment and ended Prohibition. Prohibition lasted from 1920 to 1933.
Labor Demands

• Better Wages
  – Workers had to work for low pay. There was no minimum wage, so employers could pay as little as they wanted. Many workers did not make enough money to pay for important things like medical care.

• Better Hours
  – Workers usually had to work 12 hour days, 6 days a week. Employers demanded that the workers work long hours. If the worker refused, he or she would probably get fired.
Labor Demands

• Insurance Benefits
  – Workers did not receive medical insurance from the employer. This meant that many workers could not afford to go see the doctor. Even when the worker was hurt at work, the employer would not pay for the worker's medical care.

• Better Working Conditions
  – Working conditions were usually dangerous and dirty. Many workers were hurt on the job or got sick from the environment. If the workers were so sick and hurt that they could not work, then they lost their jobs.
• The Progressive Movement began in the late 19th century and continued until World War I. It was a time of great social change. People began to talk about the ills of society.
Labor unions sprang up in the late 1800s. People began fighting for better working conditions in factories and businesses across the United States. In 1886, Samuel Gompers founded the American Federation of Labor (AFL), a union made up of skilled workers. Labor unions fought for the eight-hour workday, improved wages, and an end to child labor. There were large numbers of immigrants, many of them unskilled workers, who took part in the organized labor movement.
Muckrakers

- Muckrakers were journalists who worked to educate the public on the abuses taking place within society. Jacob Riis, Upton Sinclair, and Ida Tarbell were three writers from this time period who were considered to be muckrakers.
Homestead Strike

- The Homestead Strike took place in 1892. It began when iron and steel workers protested in Homestead, Pennsylvania, in reaction to a wage cut. The company's manager hired 300 Pinkerton detectives to protect the plant. In an armed battle between the workers and the detectives, several men were killed or wounded. The governor called out the state militia, and the nonunion workers stayed on the job, ending the strike.
Working Conditions

• In 1911, a fire broke out at the Triangle Shirtwaist Company in New York City. The employees were not able to escape because the doors had been locked. The employer locked the doors so that no worker could leave without first being inspected for stolen items. Nearly 150 garment workers died because they were unable to escape from the upper floors of the building. Following this tragic accident, new laws were passed to make sure that safe conditions exist for people while they are working.
Prohibition

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union was formed in the 1800s. This organization was created in order to keep people from drinking alcohol. People in the temperance movement blamed social problems like crime and poverty on alcohol consumption. They pledged not to drink alcohol at all.
Prohibition

• In response to the temperance movement, Congress passed the 18th Amendment, banning the manufacture, sale, or transportation of alcohol. This began the Prohibition Era, which lasted until the 21st Amendment was ratified in 1933.

• Prohibition led to a rise in the Mafia. This was became rival mob bosses competed in the bootlegging business. Though the sale of alcohol was illegal, there was still strong demand, which the black market rushed to supply.
Women's Rights

• In 1848, the first women's rights convention in the United States was held in Seneca Falls, New York. The convention was organized and run by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott, both of whom were also abolitionists. Attendees of the convention signed the Declaration of Sentiments, a document that was modeled after the Declaration of Independence. For the next few decades, women such as Susan B. Anthony fought for women's suffrage. Women were finally guaranteed the right to vote in local, state, and federal elections throughout the United States when the 19th Amendment was ratified in 1920.

“To deny political equality is to rob the ostracised of all self-respect...”

-Elizabeth Cady Stanton