

HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **5th Grade** | Unit 6

HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 506

A CHANGING NATION

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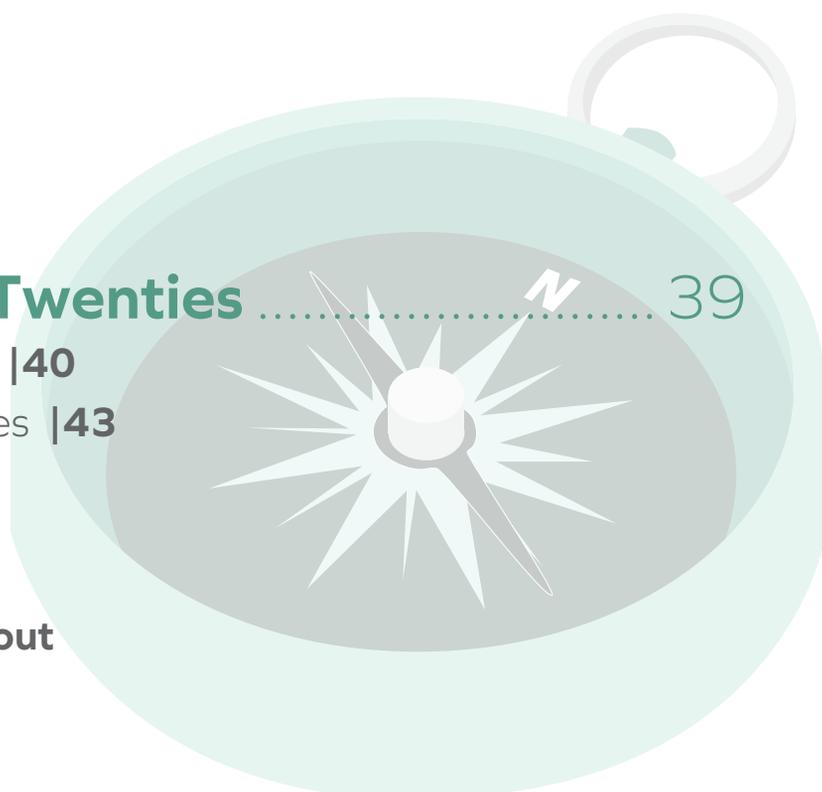
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LIFEPAC Test | **Pull-out**



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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.

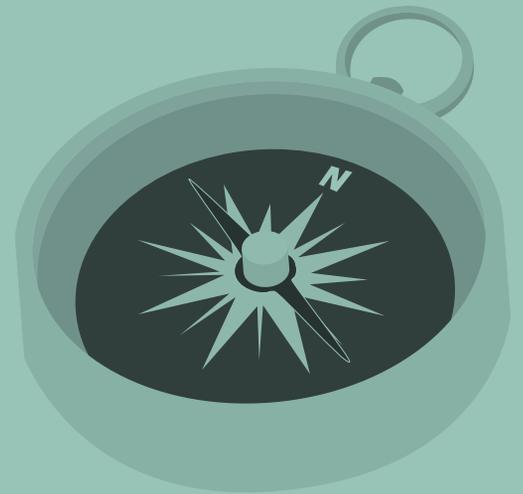
As the reforms went forward, America began to show its strength to the world. America had been a farming nation without much power in the rest of the world before the Civil War. Now, with its great industrial strength, America began to act with greater force in the world. The United States defeated the 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 LIFE PAC® 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 LIFEPAAC. Each section will list according to the numbers below what objectives will be met in that section. When you have finished this LIFEPAAC, 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, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, īce; hot, ōpen, ôrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rŭle; child; long; thin; /ʒh/ 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.

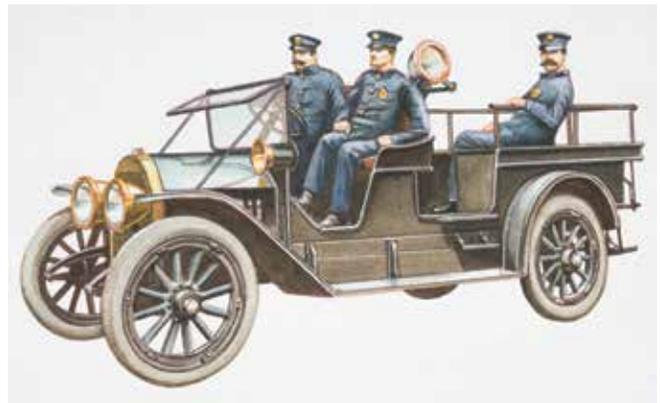
Reform

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.

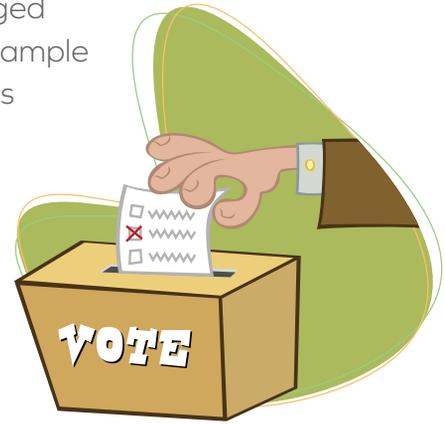
State reforms. The success reformers had in the cities encouraged them to work for changes in state government, too. The best example of Progressive reform in a state was in Wisconsin. Before reforms began, the Wisconsin state government was controlled by the large state railroad corporations. Progressive 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.

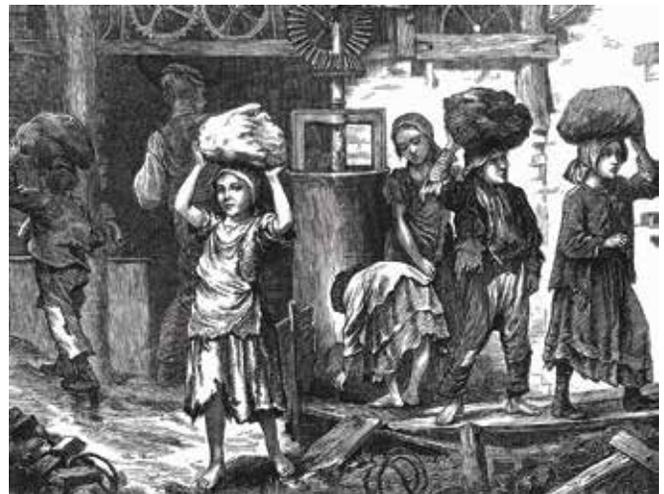
The Wisconsin governor also forced the railroad to pay taxes on the full value of their property. He set up government boards to control the prices charged by the railroads and investigate wrongdoing. He set up civil service reform for state jobs, too. Other reforms included *recall elections*, where 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 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.



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

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 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.



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



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 the 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 thrill-seekers organized by a politician named Theodore Roosevelt. Roosevelt was a strong-willed, 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.

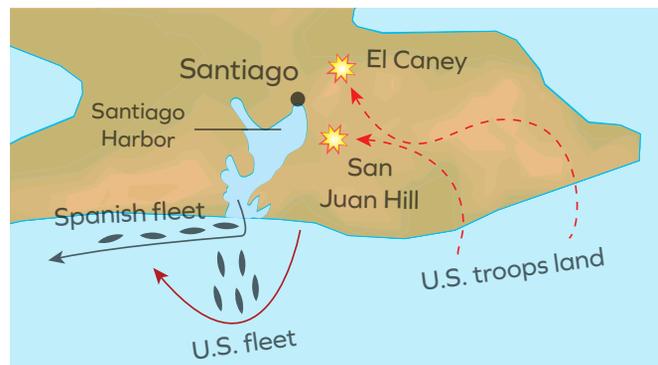
Under the command of General William Shafter, the army divided into two parts and attacked the defenses on the hills near the city in July. The Rough Riders, with Colonel Theodore Roosevelt in the lead, charged straight up one of the hills, suffering many casualties. Called the “Charge up San Juan Hill,” 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.



| Theodore Roosevelt would later become president.



| 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 _____.

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 War | c. Samuel Gompers |
| 1.04 | _____ Destroyed the Spanish fleet in Manila harbor | d. Theodore Roosevelt |
| 1.05 | _____ Began the first major successful Anti-Trust suits | e. George Dewey |
| 1.06 | _____ Head of the American Federation of Labor | f. William Taft |
| 1.07 | _____ Commanded the U.S. army in Cuba | g. Woodrow Wilson |
| 1.08 | _____ Federal Reserve Act, reduced the tariff | h. William Shafter |
| 1.09 | _____ Chosen by Theodore Roosevelt to follow him in office | |
| 1.010 | _____ President who was not interested in reforms | |

1.023 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:

Score _____

Initials _____

Date _____





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