

Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Educational Resource

This resource complements the TR VR 360 virtual tour of the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site (trsite.org) in Buffalo, NY. [Click here](#) for access to all of Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site educational resources.



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Lesson

Guiding

Questions:

What issues did Theodore Roosevelt face as president? What did he do to address those issues? Why did he take those actions?

Lesson

Objectives:

Make cause and effect connections between the issues Theodore Roosevelt faced as president and the actions he took to address them.

NYS

Standards:

4.6 WESTWARD MOVEMENT AND INDUSTRIALIZATION: New York State played an important role in the growth of the United States. During the 1800s, people traveled west looking for opportunities. Economic activities in New York State are varied and have changed over time, with improvements in transportation and technology.

(Standards: 1, 3, 4; Themes: MOV, TCC, GEO, ECO, TECH)

Editable Images

The following images appear in this lesson and are presented here in an editable form for modification. After making a copy of this document, double-click on the image to modify it.



Play Icon



Works Cited

The citations refer to images, videos, and text in this lesson. Source information that is not relevant to the lesson objective has been moved here to limit extraneous information.

- problem by monkik from the Noun Project
- Cut logs in Minnesota in the late 1800s, showing the number of trees cut down in a logging operation. [Image](#) is in the public domain and courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.
- Loggers moving tree trunks in Oregon in 1910. [Image](#) is in the public domain and courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.
- A photograph of Crater Lake in Crater Lake National Park in Oregon, one of the areas protected by Theodore Roosevelt when he was President. [Image](#) is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.0

Generic license.

- Booker T. Washington in 1905. [Image](#) is in the public domain and courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.
- Map showing when land was added to the United States. [Image](#) is in the public domain and courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.
- The Great White Fleet in 1907. [Image](#) is in the public domain and courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.
- Children working in a glass and bottle factory in Indiana. Photograph taken by Lewis W. Hine, 1908. [Image](#) is in the public domain and courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.
- The cover of *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair (1906). [Image](#) is in the public domain and courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.
- Pictures of the processes involved in the meat industry, 1900. [Image](#) is in the public domain and courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Vocabulary

The following words and phrases appear in this lesson and may be a challenge for students to define.

Word or Phrase	Definition

Instructional Suggestions

Make this lesson your own. This resource is meant to be modified for your use considering your students' needs, your style as an educator, and the context in which you teach. The suggestions below are only suggestions.

Stations Activity

Arrange the information below into stations that students visit as if they were visiting exhibits at a fair. Have students gather information as they move from station to station, discussing the graphic organizer questions as they go.

Jigsaw Activity

Arrange students into groups who specialize in one of the following issues and ask students to complete the tasks related to that issue, then ask students to join groups with those who learned about other issues and have them teach each other what they have learned.

What issues did Theodore Roosevelt face as president? What did he do to address those issues? Why did he take those actions?

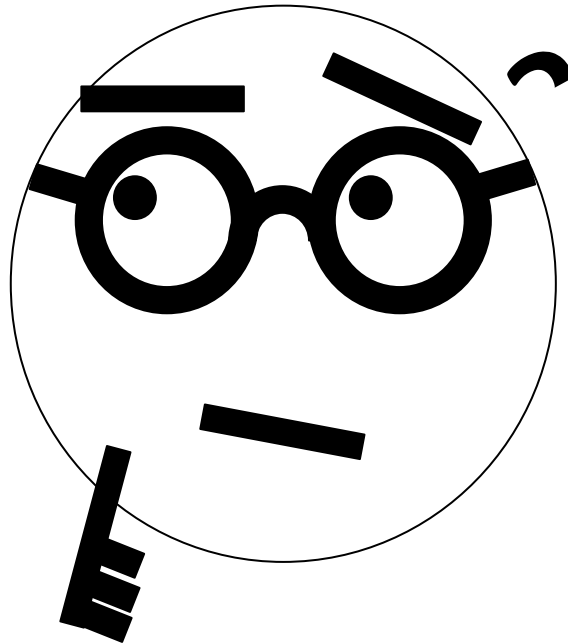
Objective:

- Make cause and effect connections between the issues Theodore Roosevelt faced as president and the actions he took to address them.

Introduction

→Directions: Read the definition below, then answer the question that follows.

An issue is a **challenge** or a **problem**.



What issues do you have in your life?

What issues did Theodore Roosevelt face as president? What did he do to address those issues? Why did he take those actions?

→**Directions:** As you read the text, examine the images, and watch the videos linked, answer the questions below.

Conservation

Question	Answer
1. What direction did people travel when settling the United States?	
2. Identify three reasons why people chopped down trees in the 1800s and 1900s.	
3. What led to polluted water?	
4. Why did Theodore Roosevelt take action to conserve nature?	
5. What did Roosevelt do to save land from being destroyed?	

Race

Question	Answer
1. What event led to the end of slavery in the United States?	
2. What is racism?	
3. Identify two effects of Jim Crow Laws in the south.	

4. Who was Booker T. Washington?	
5. What actions did Roosevelt take to address the issue of race?	

International Affairs

Question	Answer
1. What two oceans does the United States border?	
2. In 1901, when Roosevelt became president, what was the most powerful country in the Western Hemisphere?	
3. Why did Roosevelt have the Great White Fleet built and tour the world?	
4. Why was the Panama Canal important?	

Immigration and Urban Poverty

Question	Answer
1. Why did factory owners hire children?	
2. Identify two characteristics of child labor that made it dangerous.	
3. What did Roosevelt do to address the issue of child labor?	

Big Business

Question	Answer
1. What do companies in the meat-packing industry do?	
2. What did readers like Theodore Roosevelt learn from Upton Sinclair's book <i>The Jungle</i> ?	
3. What did Roosevelt do to address issues in the meat-packing industry?	

Conservation



Watch this [Environmental Conservation YouTube video from the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site](#).

Conservation- the protection of natural resources such as oil, water, or forests from harm

What was the issue while Theodore Roosevelt was President?

Starting with the arrival of the first colonists on the eastern coast of North America and continuing through the 1800s and 1900s, people pushed west settling the United States and changing its environment.

In the 1800s and 1900s, Americans used the natural resources in their country to survive, create homes for themselves, and make money. Families chopped down trees to build houses, cleared land to grow food, and to get firewood for heat. They hunted animals and fished for food.

Farmers and ranchers chopped down more



Cut logs in Minnesota in the late 1800s, showing the number of trees cut down in a logging operation.

trees to clear land for large farms and ranches. They hunted animals like bison and wolves to give cows, pigs, and sheep more safe space to graze.

Loggers chopped down forests to sell the wood to others. Miners cut down forests so they could dig into mountain sides to get the coal beneath the surface.

In addition, businesses that used the coal, wood, and animals put their factories near rivers, lakes, and oceans, and they dumped dangerous waste to these bodies of water, polluting them.



Loggers moving tree trunks in Oregon in 1910.

What did Theodore Roosevelt do to address the issue? Why did he take those actions?

"We have become great because of the lavish use of our resources. But the time has come to inquire seriously what will happen when our forests are gone, when the coal, the iron, the oil, and the gas are exhausted, when the soils have still further impoverished and washed into the streams, polluting the rivers, denuding the fields and obstructing navigation."

- Theodore Roosevelt

Theodore Roosevelt loved nature. He spent a lot of time outside as a boy swimming, hiking, fishing, and hunting and as a man he traveled around the United States enjoying its forests, lakes, and natural beauty.

Fearing that businesses would use up all of the country's natural resources and that future generations would not be able to enjoy the nature he loved, Roosevelt took action as President.

He protected over 125,000,000 acres of land from being destroyed by those who wanted to make money from the resources in it. He did this by creating five new national parks, fifty-one bird reserves, four game reserves for hunting and 150 national forests all of which were protected by the federal government. Businesses were not allowed to use this land to make money. He also created the United States Forest Service to manage the forests in the country so they could be used wisely without being over logged.



A photograph of Crater Lake in Crater Lake National Park in Oregon, one of the areas protected by Theodore Roosevelt when he was President.

Race

Watch this [Race and Social Inequities YouTube video from the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site](#)



Watch [this video of Booker T. Washington explaining Roosevelt's thoughts on race, racial issues during Roosevelt's life and reactions to Washington's visit to the White House.](#)

What was the issue while Theodore Roosevelt was President?

At the end of the Civil War (1861-1865) slavery was outlawed in the United States, freeing enslaved African Americans, but from the end of the war and through Theodore Roosevelt's presidency African Americans faced major obstacles to equality and safety.

Racism, the belief that one group of people are better than another based on the color of their skin, was a common belief during the 19th and 20th centuries. In the southern United States racist laws called "Jim Crow Laws" separated people based on their race. African Americans and white Americans were not allowed to live in the same areas, they had separate schools, separate public bathrooms, rode on separate sections of buses and trains, ate in separate restaurants, and drank from separate drinking fountains. In most cases, the separate facilities were unequal. African American schools for example were not as nice, did not have new books, and did not have as much

money as schools for white children. In addition, because of racism and Jim Crow laws, African Americans were not hired for government jobs as frequently as white Americans, and when they were, those jobs did not have as much power as the positions held by white Americans and did not make as much money as white Americans, so whites were wealthier.

In some parts of the country, especially the South, life could be dangerous for African Americans. Sometimes, racist groups of white Americans captured and killed African Americans for actions that the white people thought were disrespectful. Often, the rumors of what the African American victims did was untrue. These killings were done to scare African Americans away from challenging white Americans for power.

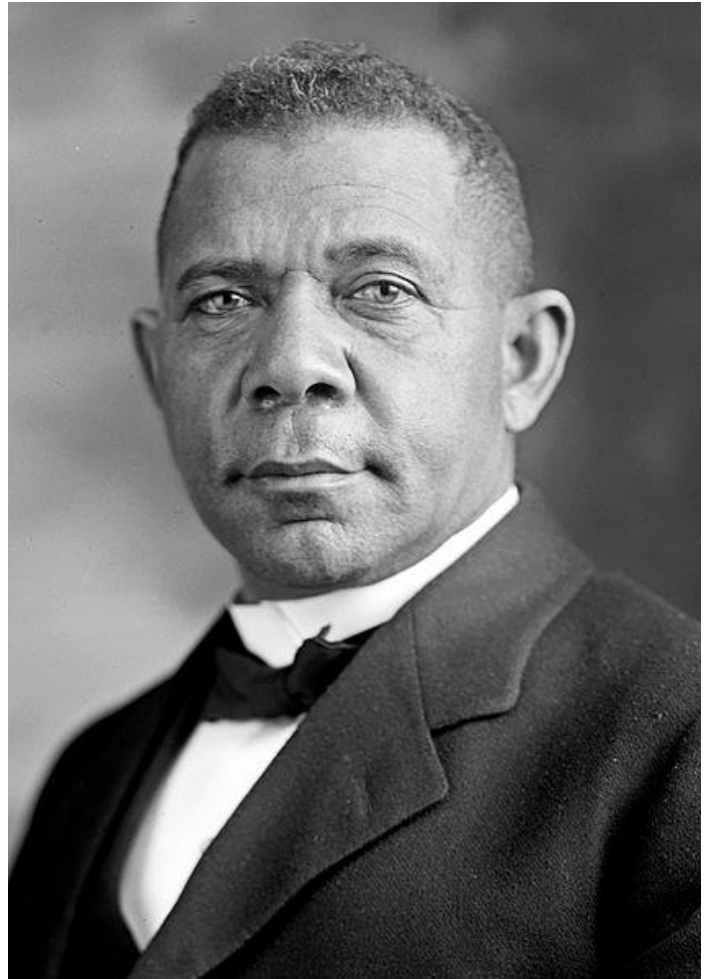
What did Theodore Roosevelt do to address the issue? Why did he take those actions?

"There are good men and bad men of all nationalities, creeds and colors; and if this world of ours is ever to become what we hope some day it may become, it must be by the general recognition that the man's heart and soul, the man's worth and actions, determine his standing."

Theodore Roosevelt Letter, Oyster Bay, NY, September 1, 1903

One of the first acts President Theodore Roosevelt took as President was to send a letter to Booker T. Washington to invite him to dinner at the White House. Booker T. Washington was an important leader in the African American community who founded Tuskegee University in Alabama for African Americans. Washington accepted the invitation and he became the first African American to dine with a president at the White House. Roosevelt's invitation was criticized by many who believed that African Americans were inferior to white Americans and that the president had insulted the office of the presidency, but others celebrated his gesture of respect towards Washington and African Americans in general.

As president, Roosevelt did not make great progress in creating equality between African Americans and white Americans, but made some effort. Roosevelt appointed African Americans to positions in the government and spoke out against racist violence.



Booker T. Washington in 1905

International Affairs



Watch this [Role of the US in Global Affairs YouTube video](#) from the [Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site](#)

What was the issue while Theodore Roosevelt was President?

In the 1890s, the United States was growing in size and power. By 1850, the country stretched from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific and in 1898, after winning the Spanish-American War, it added the territories of Puerto Rico in the Caribbean, and Hawaii and the Philippines in the Pacific Ocean. The United States was the most powerful country in North and South America and many people in the government wanted to build up the country's ability to protect its territory and keep European and Asian countries from controlling the Western Hemisphere.



Map showing when land was added to the United States.

What did Theodore Roosevelt do to address the issue? Why did he take those actions?

As President, Theodore Roosevelt followed a policy he called the “Big Stick Policy.” He thought the United States could only get what they wanted if the country had a strong navy that would act like a big stick that they could threaten other countries with and punish them if they acted against the United States. To build this “big stick,” Roosevelt had battleships built that were painted white and called them the Great White Fleet. He sent the fleet on a tour of the world to visit countries the United States had agreements with to show off the country’s power.



The Great White Fleet in 1907.

In addition, Roosevelt made it easier for the war ships to protect the country by securing land for building the Panama Canal. The canal is a 48 mile long man-made waterway that cuts through the country of Panama and connects the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Though the canal was not finished until 1914, when Roosevelt was out of office, he chose where it was going to be built and started construction on it. As a result of the canal, it took American ships five fewer months to travel from the east coast to the west coast than it took before the canal was built.

Immigration and Urban Poverty



Watch this [Immigration & Urban Poverty YouTube video from the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site](#)

What was the issue while Theodore Roosevelt was President?

Starting in the early 1800s, factory owners who made cloth hired children to work in factories because they would work for less money than adults and they could fit into small spaces that adults could not fit into. It was common for children to work on family farms before the start of factories, but working in a factory was different. Children who worked in factories worked long hours, sometimes 11 hours per day for six days a week and it was dangerous. Children were often injured and sometimes killed by the machines. Children were also employed on farms, working in mines, in food service, and many other industries. By 1900, 1 in 5 children worked and those who did were usually from poor families.



Children working in a glass and bottle factory in Indiana. Photograph taken by Lewis W. Hine, 1908.

What did Theodore Roosevelt do to address the issue? Why did he take those actions?

By the time Theodore Roosevelt became president, social reformers, people who tried to improve their community, wanted to change the laws to prevent children from working so they could get an education instead. Roosevelt supported these attempts but saw it as a responsibility of the states to create laws limiting child labor. He discussed the issue of child labor in his State of the Union Addresses in 1901, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, and 1908 and he ordered the Department of Commerce and Labor to investigate child labor practices. Though he encouraged states to act, he did not sign any laws preventing child labor as President.



Twelve-year old, Addie Card, working in a textile (cloth making) factory in Vermont. Photograph taken by Lewis W. Hine, 1910.

Big Business

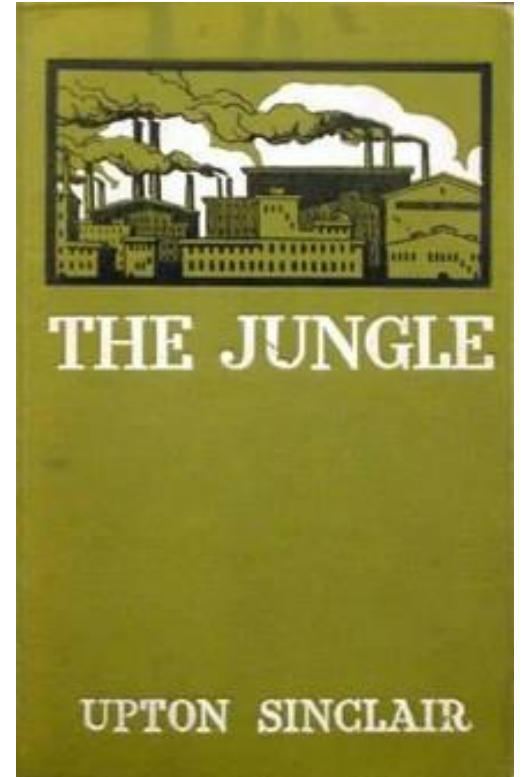


Watch this [Big Business and Labor YouTube video from the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site](#)

What was the issue while Theodore Roosevelt was President?

When Theodore Roosevelt became president big businesses had a lot of power in the United States and were rarely regulated, or controlled, by the government. As a result, some businesses did things to make money that put their workers and the public in danger. One of the industries that did so was the meat-packing industry. Meat-packing businesses slaughter and butcher animals to create products that are sold like small cuts of meat, hamburger, and sausage for example.

In 1906, a journalist named Upton Sinclair published a novel called *The Jungle* about immigrants who worked in Chicago's meat-packing industry based on his experiences working in the meatpacking plants and interviews with other people who worked there. Sinclair's book showed that immigrant workers were poorly paid and that meat products were produced in disgusting conditions. He exposed practices like letting meat spoil, the addition of chemicals to meat, and rat feces and dead rats ground up into sausage



The cover of *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair (1906).



Pictures of the processes involved in the meat industry, 1900.

What did Theodore Roosevelt do to address the issue? Why did he take those actions?

After reading Sinclair's book, Theodore Roosevelt ordered an investigation into the meatpacking industry. That investigation supported many of the conclusions from Sinclair's book, so Congress, supported by the president passed a law called the Federal Meat Inspection Act of 1906 and created the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The FDA is an organization whose job is to inspect the production of everything from food and medicine to makeup and microwave ovens to make sure they are safe for the people who buy them.

Show What You Know: Cause and Effect Statements

→**Directions:** Complete the statements below with information you learned about the issues Theodore Roosevelt faced as president and the actions he took to address those issues.

Conservation

Model- John was late for class, so he ran down the hallway.

so

Race

Model- Alicia asked her friend to come over because she needed help with her homework.

because

International Affairs

Model- Alicia asked her friend to come over because she needed help with her homework.

because

Immigration and Urban Poverty

Model- John was late for class, so he ran down the hallway.

so

Big Business

Model- Alicia asked her friend to come over because she needed help with her homework.

because

