

Summary: Time of Reform

The Progressives

In the early 1900s, adults and children worked in unsafe factories. Factories polluted cities. Dirty air and water made people sick. Progressives wanted to make factories and cities safer. They fought for laws to end child labor and protect factory workers.

Upton Sinclair was a muckraker. He wrote a book about the dangers of meat factories. In 1906, Congress passed two laws. One law was The Pure Food and Drug Act. It stopped factories from using harmful chemicals in food. The second law was The Meat Inspection Act. It said factories had to be cleaner and safer. President Theodore Roosevelt also wanted to protect the environment. He saved land for national parks and wilderness areas.

Working for Equal Rights

Women fought for the right to vote for many years. In 1920, Congress passed the Nineteenth Amendment. It gave women suffrage.

In the early 1900s, African Americans faced prejudice when they tried to get jobs or a places to live. Some states did not allow African Americans to vote. Some laws made African American children go to different schools. W.E.B. Du Bois wrote about African American life. He helped people see why laws should be changed. Booker T. Washington started a school to educate African Americans.

In 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded. “Colored People” was a term then used for African Americans. The NAACP worked for equality. It wanted African Americans to be treated fairly. Between 1910 and 1930, about 1.5 million African Americans moved to northern cities. This was called the Great Migration. African Americans wanted better lives. They found jobs in factories and businesses in the North.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

progressives *noun*, reformers who believe the government should make laws to protect citizens' rights

muckraker *noun*, someone who “rakes up,” or points out unpleasant truths



After You Read

REVIEW What did the Pure Food and Drug Act and the Meat Inspection Act do to make food safer?

What did the Pure Food and Drug Act stop factories from doing? Circle the sentence that tells you the answer.

What did the Meat Inspection Act make factories do? Circle the sentence that tells you the answer.

REVIEW What is the NAACP and what is its purpose? Circle the words that tell what NAACP means. Underline two sentences that say what the NAACP worked for.