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Title: Prosperity for All: The Legacy of Homestead

Subject: US History

State: Indiana

The battle of Homestead stands as a pivotal moment in the history of labor relations in the United States. Although the workers ultimately failed, the impact of the strike created lasting repercussions. Students will work with primary sources to understand how the events of the strike and battle played out and analyze how the issues the workers focused on are still timely for workers today.

Lesson Plan Rundown:

- Initially, students will be given character cards of real people who participated in the mills with very brief biographies.
- Students will first read a secondary source that gives students an overview of the homestead strike which will include an explanation of the steel industry's importance to the U.S., shorts bios of Carnegie and Frick as well as the state of unions in the country. (textbook? Mock trial intro?) After the reading, students will be asked to create an opinion/thoughts piece predicting about what their character might have felt during the strike.
- Then, small groups of students will use primary source images/drawings of the mill and strike, then they will be given a chance to put them in groups and give each grouping a specific theme (machinery, work, wealth, etc). Students should be prepared to explain why they put the pictures in the groups they chose.
- Next, students will be given primary sources from individuals who were actually at the battle, as well as more pictures of the homestead mill and be given time to order them according to how the events played out. Students will also be shown newspaper accounts of the battle and be asked to make an attempt to determine bias, inconsistencies and follow the evolution of the public opinion about the strike.
- Students will then look at primary sources of political cartoons interpreting what they see with what they have learned. They will then discuss how political cartoons of the strike compare to political cartoons that look at labor of current strikes.
- Finally, students will look at recent/current strikes by workers. Students will choose one of the recent worker struggles and compare and contrast them. Students will write an analytical essay looking at how the legacy of the Homestead has impacted the current economic climate for workers. The emphasis will be on argument rather than complete coverage of events. By writing the essay, the students should be able to explain how the past connects to the present and what lessons could be learned?

Indiana State Standards

- USH.2.1 Explain the causes and consequences of the Industrial Revolution.
- USH.2.2 Explain the urban and rural responses to the challenges of the Gilded Age.

- USH.2.5 Summarize the impact industrialization and immigration had on social movements of the era including the contributions of specific individuals and groups.
- USH.2.6 Describe the growth of unions and the labor movement and evaluate various approaches and methods used by different labor leaders and organizations.
- USH.2.7 Describe and assess the contribution of Indiana's only president, Benjamin Harrison, to national policies on environmental protection, business regulation, immigration, and civil rights.
- USH.2.8 Evaluate the effectiveness of government attempts to regulate business (Interstate and Commerce Act 1887, Sherman Antitrust Act 1890).
- USH.10.1 Cultivate historical thinking, including the ability to evaluate competing explanations for historical change.
- USH.10.2 Locate and analyze primary sources and secondary sources related to an event or issue of the past; discover possible limitations in various kinds of historical evidence and differing secondary opinions.
- USH.10.3 Analyze multiple, unexpected, and complex causes and effects of events in the past.
- USH.10.4 Assess competing historical interpretations of a particular historical moment, historical event, or historical change.
- USH.10.5 Develop arguments, defended with historical evidence, which explain historical change.

Technological Needs

- Students should have computers with internet access to access the images and primary accounts. (Although paper copies could also be available).
- The teacher could also use a projector and computer to put up some of the images and readings on a screen for the whole class..

Material Resources

Primary Sources on Homestead Strike

- Images:
 - [The labor troubles at Homestead, Pa. - Attack of the strikers and their sympathizers on the surrendered Pinkerton men](#)
 - [Collection of Homestead Strike](#)
 - [The Homestead Riot](#)
 - [Great Battle of Homestead. Defeat and capture of the Pinkerton invaders, July 6th 1892](#)
 - [A variety of images from this somewhat contemporary, but sensationalized, account of the battle.](#)
- Newspaper Reports:
 - [The Madison Daily Leader Nov. 22, 1892](#)

- [Clarksburg Telegram 1898](#)
- (Suspect!) [Pittsburgh Press July 5 1892](#)
- [Pittsburgh Press July 7 1892](#)
- Diaries/Statements/Other records
 - [Carnegie Write to Frick July 7 1892](#)
 - [Frick argues strikes caused violence July 7 1892](#)
 - [Frick Justifies his actions July 14 1892](#)
- Political Cartoons
 - https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/22/An_object_lesson_-_J.S._Pughe._LCCN2010651438.jpg
 - https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b0/Promise_and_Performance_Political_Cartoon_Andrew_Carnegie_sitting_on_bags_of_money_Homestead_Strike_1892.png
 - <https://explorepahistory.com/displayimage.php?imgId=1-2-CFF>
 - <https://twitter.com/adamzyglis/status/1470093778333667329>
 - <https://politicalcartoons.com/sku/250528>
 - <http://kcschwartz.weebly.com/611-carnegie-practice-2.html>

Podcasts on Unions, Strikes and Labor in the US:

- <https://www.npr.org/2019/09/18/762039538/episode-658-strike-one>
- <https://www.npr.org/2021/10/28/1050177227/striketober-could-have-lasting-impact-on-labor>
- <https://podcasts.apple.com/bg/podcast/episode-231-starbucks-unionization-campaign-spreading/id1211380470?i=1000543881822>
- <https://www.npr.org/2019/12/19/789780723/the-work-week-episode-2-what-happened-to-u-s-workers>
- <https://www.npr.org/2019/12/19/789798278/the-work-week-episode-3-gender-segregation-in-the-workplace>
- <https://www.npr.org/2022/07/06/1109316972/more-companies-are-trying-out-the-4-day-workweek-but-it-might-not-be-for-everyone>

Sources on Current Strikes/Unionization:

- John Deere
 - <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/oct/14/john-deere-workers-strike-contract-union>
 - <https://www.npr.org/2021/11/17/1056734336/deere-workers-approve-latest-contract-offer-will-end-strike>
 - <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-11-18/deere-union-workers-accept-latest-deal-ending-monthlong-strike>

- Kellogg
 - <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2021/oct/07/kelloggs-workers-strike-offsh-ore-jobs>
 - <https://www.npr.org/2021/12/21/1066326419/kelloggs-union-members-ratify-a-new-contract-ending-a-nearly-3-month-strike>
 - <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/dec/07/kellogg-strike-workers-pay>
- Starbucks
 - <https://www.npr.org/2022/05/01/1095477792/union-election-labor-starbucks-workers-food-service-representation>
 - <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/12/business/economy/amazon-starbucks-union.html>
 - <https://www.vox.com/recode/22993509/starbucks-successful-union-drive>
- Apple
 - <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/jun/19/apple-workers-vote-to-join-union-a-first-for-the-tech-giant-in-us>
 - <https://www.npr.org/2022/06/19/1106116113/apple-workers-vote-to-unionize-at-maryland-store>
 - <https://www.reuters.com/business/apple-will-not-challenge-maryland-store-unionization-vote-2022-06-24/>
- Indiana University Graduate Students
 - <https://www.indianagradworkers.org/>
 - <https://news.iu.edu/stories/2022/04/iub/09-making-the-case-against-graduate-students-unionizing.html>
 - <https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2022/04/15/indu-a15.html>
 - <https://provost.indiana.edu/images/one-off-pages/response-to-the-gwc.pdf>