

Name: Jason Cogan

Lesson Plan: The Homestead Steel Strike of 1892

Level: 11th Grade Honors US History with End of Course Exam

Subject Area and Unit Rationale: Module 3: Rise of Industry and Rise of the Labor Movement

State: Florida

Unit Goals: Evaluate the effects of industrialization on living and working conditions. Evaluate the political, economic, and cultural impact of urban industrialization.

Educator's state: Florida

Standards:

Florida History-Social Studies Content Standards that are applicable to this activity:

SS.912.A.3.4

Determine how the development of steel, oil, transportation, communication, and business practices affected the United States economy.

SS.912.A.3.2

Examine the social, political, and economic causes, course, and consequences of the second Industrial Revolution that began in the late 19th century.

SS.912.A.3.9

Examine causes, course, and consequences of the labor movement in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

**Florida Social Studies Common Core Standards that are applicable to this seminar:
Reading Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies 11**

1. Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.
2. Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.
3. Evaluate the political, economic, and cultural impact of urban industrialization.
4. Identify regional cause and effect relationships between technological and industrial developments of the nineteenth century.

Description of teaching plan: Students will be able to understand the events, key participants, and long-term implications of the Homestead Strike of 1892. Students will answer the discussion questions after viewing the video, reading the primary source documents, and listening to Carnegie's Gospel of Wealth recording. Students will then share their answers during a class discussion about the Labor Movement and implications for the 20th century and beyond.

Questions for Discussion:

1. Did the Homestead Workers have the right to prevent the Pinkertons from landing at Homestead? Did the Pinkertons have the right to surround the plant? Why or why not?
2. Can you imagine fighting or dying to protect your job? Explain
3. What happened to the Homestead Community when many of the workers lost their jobs? What happens to communities today when mills or plants are shut down?
4. What happened to the Organized Labor Movement in the United States as a result of the Homestead Strike? How do you think labor and society would have changed in the United States if the Homestead Strike had been resolved in favor of the workers?

Formal and Informal Assessment: Students will be assessed based on participation, answers to written questions, and the completion of a unit test on the Rise of Industry and Organized Labor

Technological: Laptop Computer; wifi access; projection device

Materials: Video, Primary Source Documents

Video: 10 Days That Changed America: Homestead Strike

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LU74-CFRNbE>

Recording: Carnegie Speaks: A Recording of the *Gospel of Wealth*

URL: <http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5766>

Correspondence between Henry Clay Frick and Andrew Carnegie

Doc. 1 <https://digital.library.pitt.edu/islandora/object/pitt%3A31735066205083/viewer>

Doc. 2 <https://digital.library.pitt.edu/islandora/object/pitt%253A31735061570549/viewer>

Other Sources:

Standiford, Les. *Meet You in Hell: Andrew Carnegie, Henry Clay Frick, and the Bitter Partnership That Transformed America*. Broadway Books, 2006.

Demarest, David P. *The River Ran Red*. U of Pittsburgh Press, 1992.

Frick - Carnegie Correspondence

- [Frick Writes to Carnegie Regarding the Homestead Situation, July 4, 1892](#)
Frick discusses his plan to land 300 Pinkerton detectives on mill property to protect the Homestead Steel Works so that it can reopen with new workers.
- [Carnegie Telegram Supporting Frick, July 7, 1892](#)

Carnegie wires Frick his support, telling him to not employ any of the rioters and that he would rather let grass grow over the works.

- [Frick's Account of the Battle to Carnegie, July 11, 1892](#)

Frick provides Carnegie with his description of what occurred during the strike.

- [Carnegie and Frick Letters Regarding Military, July 14, 1892](#)

Carnegie writes Frick to warn him of the dangers of opening the mill too soon after the struggle. Frick writes Carnegie about the Congressional investigation and changing opinions of who was at fault for the battle.