

Document Based Essay - Grade 8

“Giants of Industry”

Directions:

The following question is based on the accompanying document sets (1-4). This question is designed to test your ability to work with historic documents. As you analyze the documents, take into account both the sources of the document and the author’s point of view.

Historical Context:

In the period following the Civil War, the United States went through the process of Industrialization. During this time individuals--like Carnegie, Rockefeller, Edison and Ford--became wealthy in many new businesses. Also, these new products and changing work conditions impacted every American.

Task:

Using information from the documents and your knowledge of social studies, answer the questions that follow each document in Part A. Your answers to the questions will help you write the Part B essay in which you will be asked to.

- Describe **two** new production methods or tactics used by the Industrialists.
- Explain the criticisms of the Industrialists during this period.
- Evaluate the impact these individuals and their products had on the American consumer.

Part A Short Answer:

Examine the documents that follow closely and then answer the questions that follow. Carefully read and analyze each document. Answer each question on the separate answer sheet using evidence from the document and your knowledge of Social Studies.

Part B Essay Answer:

Answer the question in a well-organized essay that uses your answers from Part A. Use evidence from the Documents and your knowledge of Social Studies to support the ideas in your essay. You should use definitions, examples, evidence, and other specific examples to fully develop the Topic.

Document #1

Three years ago I took over the Cleveland refineries. I have managed them so that to-day I pay a profit to nobody. I do my own buying I make my own acid and barrels, I control the New York terminals of both the Erie and Central roads, and ship such quantities that the railroads give me better rates than they do any other shipper. In 1873 I shipped over 700,000 barrels by the Central, and my profit on my capitalization, \$ 2,500,000, was over \$ 1,000,000. This was the result of combination in one city. ... Let us become the nucleus of private company which gradually shall acquire control of all refineries everywhere, become the only shippers, and consequently the master of the railroads in the matter of freight rates.

John D. Rockefeller, "testimony in Clarion county, Ohio", 1878

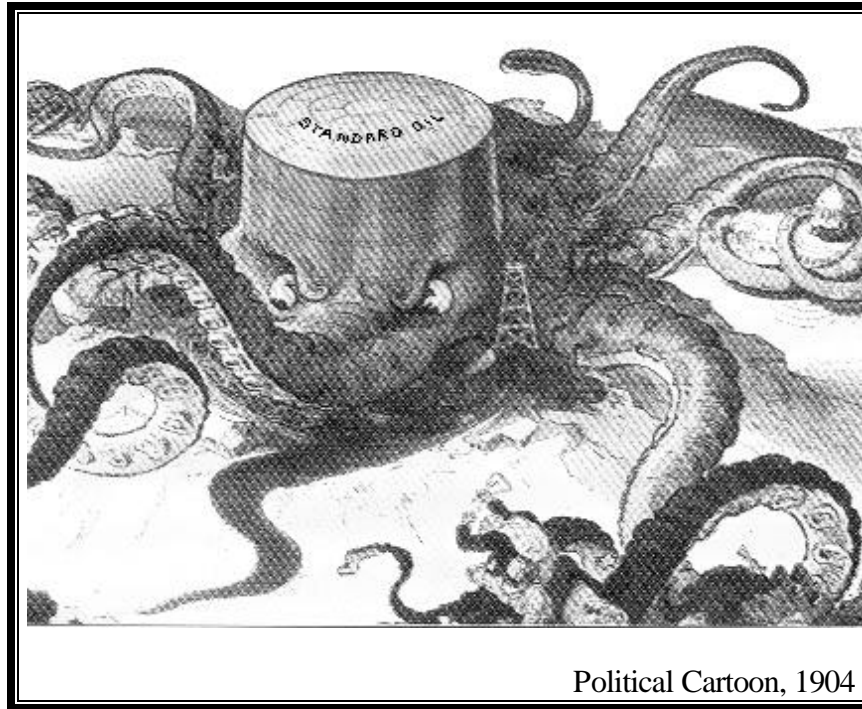
- 1 A) What does John D. Rockefeller mean by "combination"?
- 1 B) How is this an example of "Vertical Integration"?

Document #2



- 2 A) What is the type of manufacturing in this picture and why is it important to industrialization?

Document #3



Political Cartoon, 1904

3A) What criticism is the cartoon making about monopolies?

Document #4

The price which society pays for the law of competition, like the price it pays for cheap comforts and luxuries, is also great; but the advantages of this law are also greater still, for it is to this law that we owe our wonderful material development, which brings improved conditions in its train. . . . It is here; we cannot evade it; no substitutes for it have been found; and while the law may be sometimes hard for the individual, it is best for the race, because it insures the survival of the fittest in every department. We accept and welcome, therefore, as conditions to which we must accommodate ourselves, great inequality of environment, the concentration of business, industrial and commercial, in the hands of a few, and the law of competition between these, as being not only beneficial, but essential for the future progress of the race.

Andrew Carnegie, *Wealth*, 1889.

4 A) What does Andrew Carnegie say about the "law of competition"?

4 B) What are the negative effects of this competition?

Document Set #5

"Mr. Edison which one of your inventions did you enjoy most while at work upon it?"

"The phonograph; I had a lot of fun with that," was the prompt answer.

"And which did you find the hardest?"

"The incandescent light--that was the hardest and most important. As I say, the development of the phonograph was the most interesting, but it took a long time--thirty years."

Article: "Edison Views the World at Seventy," *Edison Diamond Points*,
February 1917, pp. 14-16.

- 5 A) What two inventions does Edison mention? Why are they important?
- 5 B) Describe Thomas Edison's approach to inventing.

Document #6

"I will build a car for the great multitude. It will be large enough for the family, but small enough for the individual to run and care for. It will be constructed of the best materials, by the best men to be hired, after the simplest designs that modern engineering can devise. But it will be low in price that no man making a good salary will be unable to own one-and enjoy with his family the blessing of hours of pleasure in God's great open spaces."

Henry Ford, 1913

- 6A) What impact did Henry Ford's Model T have on the average American?