

1875 – 1899

ROOTS OF PROGRESSIVISM

ACTIVITIES

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Activity 1: Political Campaign

Activity Grade Level:
8th Grade

Activity: Create Campaign Materials

1. Divide class into groups of 2-3. Assign each group one of the following to research: Grange, Farmers' Alliance, or Populists.
2. Have students read the text and watch the videos in the *Roots of Progressivism* section in the 1875 – 1899 timeline of Nebraska Studies.
http://nebraskastudies.org/0600/stories/0601_0300.html
3. Have each group make a list of the beliefs of their assigned group.
4. Re-arrange the class into three large groups. Students will be with others who researched the same topic. Within each group, students will divide the workload and create the following:
 - a campaign sign with a catchy slogan that promotes the beliefs of its group
 - a campaign button representing their party
 - a song that promotes their party's beliefs
 - a speech to be given by one group member about their party

Nebraska State SOCIAL STUDIES Standards

By the end of eighth grade, students will:

- Standard 8.1.7.** Explain post Civil War changes in the United States, and the role of the United States in world affairs through World War I.
- Standard 8.4.2.** Demonstrate skills for historical analysis.
- Standard 8.4.6.** Improve their skills in historical research and geographical analysis.

Nebraska State READING & WRITING Standards

By the end of eighth grade, students will:

- Standard 8.1.1.** Identify the main idea and supporting details in what they have read.
- Standard 8.1.2.** Identify, locate, and use multiple resources to access information on an assigned or self-selected topic.
- Standard 8.1.5.** Identify and apply knowledge of the text structure and organizational elements to analyze nonfiction or informational text.
- Standard 8.1.6.** Identify similarities and differences across a variety of eighth grade reading selections.
- Standard 8.1.7.** Demonstrate the ability to analyze literary works, nonfiction, films, or media.

Activity 2: Political Caucus

Activity Grade Level:
8th Grade

Activity: Group Presentation

1. Students should read the text and watch the videos in the *Roots of Progressivism* section in the 1875 – 1899 timeline of Nebraska Studies before this activity.
http://nebraskastudies.org/0600/stories/0601_0300.html
2. Divide your classroom into three sections and label them Grange, Farmers' Alliance, and Populists. As students enter the class, tell them to pretend they are Nebraska farmers and go to the group whose beliefs they agree with most strongly.
3. Ask students the definition of "caucus". Then, have them do just that for 7-8 minutes. During this time group members will highlight the beliefs of the organization that would benefit Nebraska farmers. Allow one student to speak positively about their group in front of the class and encourage others to join their group. Class members may choose to change groups after hearing the speeches.

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Activity 3: Songs for Progressive Beliefs

Activity Grade Level:
8th Grade

Activity: Write a Song

1. Students should read the text and watch the videos in the *Roots of Progressivism* section in the 1875 – 1899 timeline of Nebraska Studies before this activity.
http://nebraskastudies.org/0600/stories/0601_0300.html
2. Have students write and perform a song that expresses the beliefs of the Grange, Farmers' Alliance, or Populists. Use the tune of a familiar song. Examples:
 - Grange (sung to the tune of *Home on the Range*)
 - Farmers' Alliance (sung to *Farmer in the Dell*)
 - Populists (sung to *Pop Goes the Weasel*)

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Activity 4: William Jennings Bryan in Full Oratorical Splendor

Activity Grade Level:
8th Grade



Activity: Photograph Analysis

1. Project or photocopy the photograph of William Jennings Bryan in the *Roots of Progressivism* section in the 1875 – 1899 timeline of Nebraska Studies.

http://nebraskastudies.org/0600/stories/0601_0304.html

2. Then have students complete the National Archives *Photograph Analysis* Worksheet at the end of this document.
3. Discuss as a class.

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Nebraska Department of Education Academic Standards

<http://www.nde.state.ne.us/ndestandards/AcademicStandards.htm>

Nebraska Department of Education Social Studies and History Standards

<http://www.nde.state.ne.us/SS/DOCUMENTS/TheHistory-SocialStudiesStandardsPDF.pdf>

National Archives

<http://www.archives.gov/index.html>

Library of Congress Learning Page Lesson Plans

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/lessons/index.html>

Six Trait Writing: Ideas, Organization, Voice, Sentence Fluency, Word Choice, and Conventions.

<http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/concord/teacherlinks/sixtraits/sixtraits.html>

RESOURCES

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National Archives Photograph Analysis Worksheet

Step 1. Observation

A. Study the photograph for 2 minutes. Form an overall impression of the photograph and then examine individual items. Next, divide the photo into quadrants and study each section to see what new details become visible.

B. Use the chart below to list people, objects, and activities in the photograph.

PEOPLE

OBJECTS

ACTIVITIES

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Step 2. Inference

Based on what you have observed above, list three things you might infer from this photograph.

Step 3. Questions

A. What questions does this photograph raise in your mind?

B. Where could you find answers to them?
