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| The Robber Barons | |
| Student Objective: | |
| What are "Robber Barons" and where all of them bad? | |
| The American Industrial Revolution | |
| Discussion Questions | |
| Why do you think men such as Rockefeller, Carnegie, Vanderbilt, and Morgan were considered "Robber Barons"?  Clarify on how a "Robber Baron" can be good to the American society and the economy. | |
| Identify what made each Robber Baron famous in the left columns. Then answer the following questions in the right columns. (You may write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.) | |
| **Cornelius Vanderbilt** - | * How did ferries and railroads industries helped to benefit the American society and economy? * How did Vanderbilt "unite the nation with his railroad industries? |
| **Andrew Carnegie** - | * Explain how Andrew Carnegie contributed to American society as a whole with his steel industry. * Why do you think working in steel factories for Carnegie was a problem for laborers and their families? * In what ways can you think the Homestead Worker Strike event affected you today? |
| **John D. Rockefeller** - | * Why do you think Rockefeller tried to prevent people from buying into Thomas Edison's light bulb invention? Was it because he was trying to undermine his rival, J.P. Morgan who invested in it? * If you were a politician back then, why would it be a problem for 80% of your society using Rockefeller's Standard Oil? |
| **J.P. Morgan** - | * What does it mean to you if J.P. Morgan had not invested in Thomas Edison's patented electric light bulbs? * What are the problems of having Morgan and his fellow Robber Barons having too much money for American socially and politically? * Why do you think the Robber Barons would want Teddy Roosevelt (their biggest threat) become the Vice President? How did this plan backfired? |
| Concluding Questions | |
| 1. At the turn of the century, what could the next step be for these industrialists? 2. How did these captains of industry came to this point in which they've accumulated so much wealth and power? 3. What if President Teddy Roosevelt had done nothing to counter these Robber Barons in their quests for economical powers? How do you think this would affect your lives today? 4. What are the possible pros and cons of having these industrialists "run and built" our nation? | |