Populist Movement Activity

Economic Issues for Farmers:

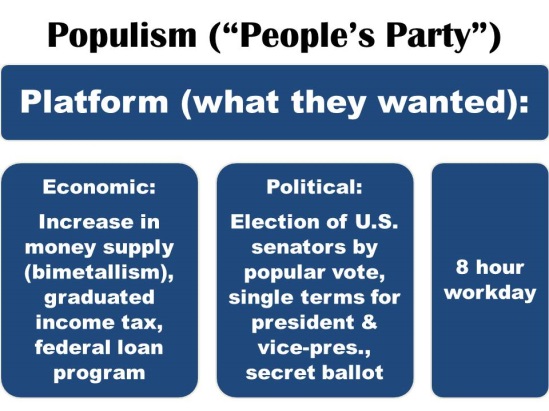
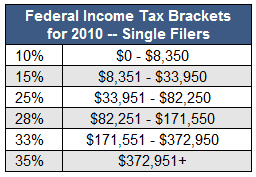
1. What does it mean that farmers would mortgage their farms? (use your phone to look up the word if needed or ask me)
2. Why were farmers caught in a cycle of debt? (use evidence from the chart)
3. How do you think that farmers could get out of this debt? (give a solution)



The Grange:

1. Grange-
2. How did it help out the farmers?
3. Why do you suppose they spend so much time fighting the railroads?

Populism:

1. Why do you suppose they were called the “People’s Party”? (who do you think they appealed to most—read their platform)
2. One of the key aspects of their plan was a graduated income tax. Look at the Federal Income Tax Brackets Chart to the left—this is a graduated income tax.

Based on what you learn from this chart, give a basic definition of a graduated income tax.

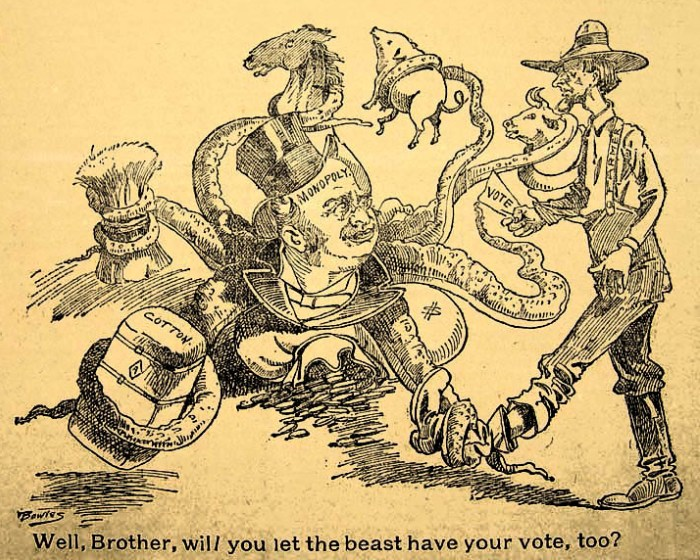
1. Why do you suppose the Populist wanted the political aspects of their platform?
2. Who would an 8 hour workday appeal to the most?



Gold/Silver Debate:

1. What was “bimetallism”—what did they want? (ask me if you can’t figure it out from the chart)
2. What was a “Gold Bug”?
3. If you were living in 1896, which do you think you would have been: Silverite or Gold Bug? Why?

Political Cartoon:



Vote

Monopoly

Cotton

1. What animal is “Monopoly”? Why do you suppose the cartoonist

drew this animal to represent monopoly? (you need to know what

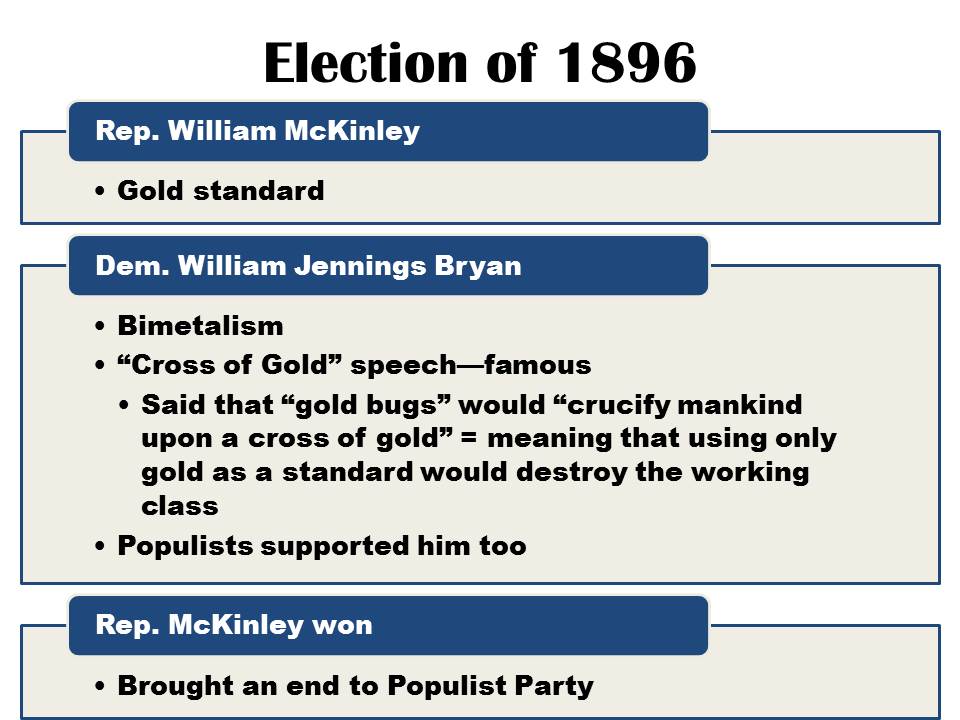
a monopoly is first—look it up on your phone if you need to)

1. Read the caption at the bottom. What is the farmer

about to do?

1. What is the message of this cartoon?

Election of 1896:

1. Republican candidate McKinley was for staying on the gold standard. Who do you think might be typical people that would vote for him because of this? (who would it benefit)
2. Democrat candidate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (name) ran on bimetallism. What was his famous “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” speech about?
3. Why do you think McKinley won the election? (think about who would have supported him)

Political Cartoon

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is holding the gold cross in the cartoon. (use info. From above)
2. What do the crown of thrones and the cross refer too? (ask me if you are not sure)
3. Do you think Bryan sees himself as a savior of the working class? Explain.

“You shall not press down upon the brow of labor this crown of thorns, you shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold.” –William Jennings Bryan, Democratic Convention, 1896

Wizard of Oz—Allegory for the Populist Party

The book/movie the Wizard of Oz is an allegory representing the Populist Party movement. See if you can figure out what each of the following mean. I have given you the answer for the first one.

1. Dorothy = “Miss Everyman”; American people at their best: Independent, resourceful, kindhearted, honest all-American girl from the heartland
2. Cyclone =
3. Yellow Brick Road =
4. Silver Shoes =
5. Wizard =
6. Scarecrow =
7. Tinman =
8. Cowardly lion =
9. Wicked Witches of East & West =
10. Good Witches of North & South =