

## Gilded Age: Captains of Industry...Too Much Wealth?

**WebQuest Description:** Gilded Age: Captains of Industry...Too Much Wealth?

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Curriculum:** Social Studies

**Keywords:** robber barons

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### Introduction

Today is March 21, 1877, the first day of spring. As you walk out of your rented, urban brownstone apartment in New York City into the warm sunshine, you see the corner newsboys hawking papers. You see immigrants rushing to work in industrial factories. You quickly buy a copy of the NY Herald, skimming through screaming headlines...Coal Miners Demand Higher Pay, Anger Towards Greedy Robber Barons". A competing headlines says "Captains of Industry Disagree, Say They are Making America Great!" You wonder to yourself, "who ARE these "robber baron"?...these "captains of industry". To find out, you head down to the New York City Public Library to research and find out more. To complete this research, click on the TASK tab in the left pane for more details...

### Tasks

**Directions:** Using the handout provided to you in class, and the website links found below for each step, read, research and improve your summarizing and communication skills as you work your way through the handout. Each student should submit a handout and work individually on their own. Avoid copying information directly from the websites...anyone can do that. Read, re-word, re-state!  
**Step 1:** Use this reading to summarize definitions for the terms on the handout in your own words.  
**Step 2:** Using this political cartoon "The Octopus", answer the questions on the handout.  
**Step 3:** Use the following information in the summary Prezi's to fill out your chart in step 3. Use good research skills...read for understanding, then re-word and summarize. **DO NOT COPY WORD FOR WORD.** Click each man's name to open the Prezi for research. If you have never used Prezi, scroll through using the arrows in the bottom middle of the pane, zoom using + or - in the middle right of the pane. Andrew Carnegie, J.P. Morgan, John D. Rockefeller, Cornelius Vanderbilt. Keep your handouts when finished to discuss!