

Industrial Revolution Web Quest

Instructions: Read/Analyze each item below. On a separate sheet, answer the questions for each part. (Be sure to answer thoroughly, as your responses will help prepare you for the silent debate on Monday)

Part A

George Rice, a Pennsylvania oil refiner, was a victim of John D. Rockefeller's consolidation efforts. In testimony before the United States Industrial Commission in 1899, he describes how the Standard Oil Trust bankrupted his refining company. I am a citizen of the United States, born in the state of Vermont. Producer of petroleum for more than thirty years, and a refiner of same for twenty years. But my refinery has been shut down during the past three years, owing to the powerful and all- prevailing machinations of the Standard Oil Trust, in criminal collusion and conspiracy with the railroads to destroy my business of twenty years of patient industry, toil, and money in building up, wholly by and through unlawful freight discriminations..... Outside of rebates or freight discriminations, I had no show with the Standard Oil Trust, because of their unlawfully acquired monopoly, by which they could temporarily cut only my customers' prices, and below cost, leaving the balance of the town, nine-tenths, uncut. This they can easily do without any appreciable harm to their general trade, and thus effectually wipe out all competition, as fully set forth. Standard Oil prices generally were so high that I could sell my goods 2 to 3 cents a gallon below their prices and make a nice profit, but these savage attacks and [price] cuts upon my customers' goods...plainly showed...their power for evil, and the uselessness to contend against such odds....

#1-What is the main idea of Rice's argument?

#2--Does Rice have any valid points? Which? Why?

Part B

Rockefeller reduced his workload at Standard Oil in the 1890s to direct some of his energies toward philanthropy; after his retirement, he devoted his remaining 26 years to that endeavor. Major Rockefeller charitable ventures included:

- ***Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research.*** In 1901, Rockefeller created an organization to study the cause and prevention of disease. The Institute later became Rockefeller University.
- ***General Education Board.*** Created in 1902, the GEB supported a wide variety of educational improvements, concentrating attention on medical schools and the improvement of public education in the South. Before it was phased out in 1965, the GEB distributed more than \$300 million.
- ***Rockefeller Sanitary Commission.*** Established in 1909 to address the problem of hookworm disease, the Commission mounted massive educational campaigns in the South. Later, efforts were launched overseas before the organization was closed in 1915.
- ***The Rockefeller Foundation.*** Given the broad charge "to promote the well-being of mankind throughout the world," the Foundation provided funding for public health, medical schools, famine prevention, the social sciences, the arts and many other endeavors. Begun in 1913, the Foundation

continued and expanded the activities of the Sanitary Commission, and remains one of the world's leading philanthropic forces today.

• **University of Chicago.** Rockefeller instituted the challenge grant approach to establish what was initially a Baptist institution of higher learning. He offered to make a large donation if a similar amount could be raised from other sources within a certain time frame; he favored this approach because it demonstrated a base of support for a project and he would turn to this form of philanthropy many times over the years. Rockefeller was also a generous benefactor of Columbia, Harvard, Spelman, Bryn Mawr and Yale.

#3—Describe some of the humanitarian things Rockefeller got involved in.

#4—Does Rockefeller's philanthropy justify his business practices? Why?_

Part C

Click on the link, analyze the picture, then answer the questions below.

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/a0/Standard_oil_octopus_loc_color.jpg

#5—What is the image of?

#6—What is in the tentacles of the octopus?

Part D

Directions: Rank the following inventions from one to six, with number one being the most important invention in the group. Be prepared to share your results with the rest of the class.

- _____ The automobile
- _____ The steam engine
- _____ The telegraph
- _____ Development of the incandescent light bulb
- _____ The telephone
- _____ Bessemer process of making steel

#7. Which item above did you list as the most important? Explain why.

Part E

#8—Write a summary paragraph about 2 success and 2 problems that resulted from the *Industrial Revolution*.