**EOCT Review**

**Chapter 10: Progressive Era**

* Muckrakers were writers and journalists who promoted change by exposing social problems: for example, Ida Tarbell exposed the unfair tactics of John D. Rockefeller’s Standard Oil Company, and Upton Sinclair exposed the unhealthy practices of the meat processing industry. Sinclair’s book, *The Jungle*, led to the passage of the Meat Inspection Act (1906).
* Women played important roles in the reform movements of the Progressive Era. They ran “settlement houses”, fought to improve conditions of workers, state inspections of factories, prohibit child labor, and obtain women’s suffrage (*the right to vote*).
* Progressives were responsible for major legislative actions at the local, state and federal levels. Progressives were middle-class reformers who wanted to use the power of government to correct the worst abuses of industrial society, end corruption in govt, to limit the influence of “Big Business,” and to preserve opportunities for the middle class.
* Progressive legislative actions included: (1) steps for the empowerment of voters (secret ballot; initiative, referendum and recall; direct election of U.S. Senators; primary elections; women’s suffrage in some states); (2) new labor laws (state laws limiting working hours for women; prohibition of child labor that was later found unconstitutional; Clayton Antitrust Act preventing courts from using antitrust laws against labor unions; state fire codes for workplaces after the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire); and (3) laws promoting conservation (creation of National Conservation Commission; creation of new national parks; designation of national monuments). Other important Progressive reforms included the Pure Food and Drug Act, lower tariffs, the introduction of graduated income tax, and the creation of the Federal Reserve System.
* Southern states disenfranchised their African-American citizens in the late 19th century. They used literacy tests, poll taxes and white primaries to take away African Americans’ voting rights. White citizens preserved their rights through “grandfather” clauses.
* Southern state legislatures also established a system of racial segregation, in which African Americans and white residents used separate water fountains, public restrooms, park benches, waiting rooms, railway cars, and similar facilities. These segregation laws became known as “Jim Crow” laws.
* The U.S. Supreme Court upheld these segregation laws in Plessy v. Ferguson (1896), so long as states offered African Americans “separate but equal” facilities. This decision led to an expansion of state segregation laws across the South. In addition, President Woodrow Wilson introduced segregation into the federal government.
* The NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) was formed in reaction to the disenfranchisement of African-American citizens and the passage of “Jim Crow” laws in the South. NAACP leaders like W.E.B. Du Bois vowed to fight for African- American rights and equal opportunities