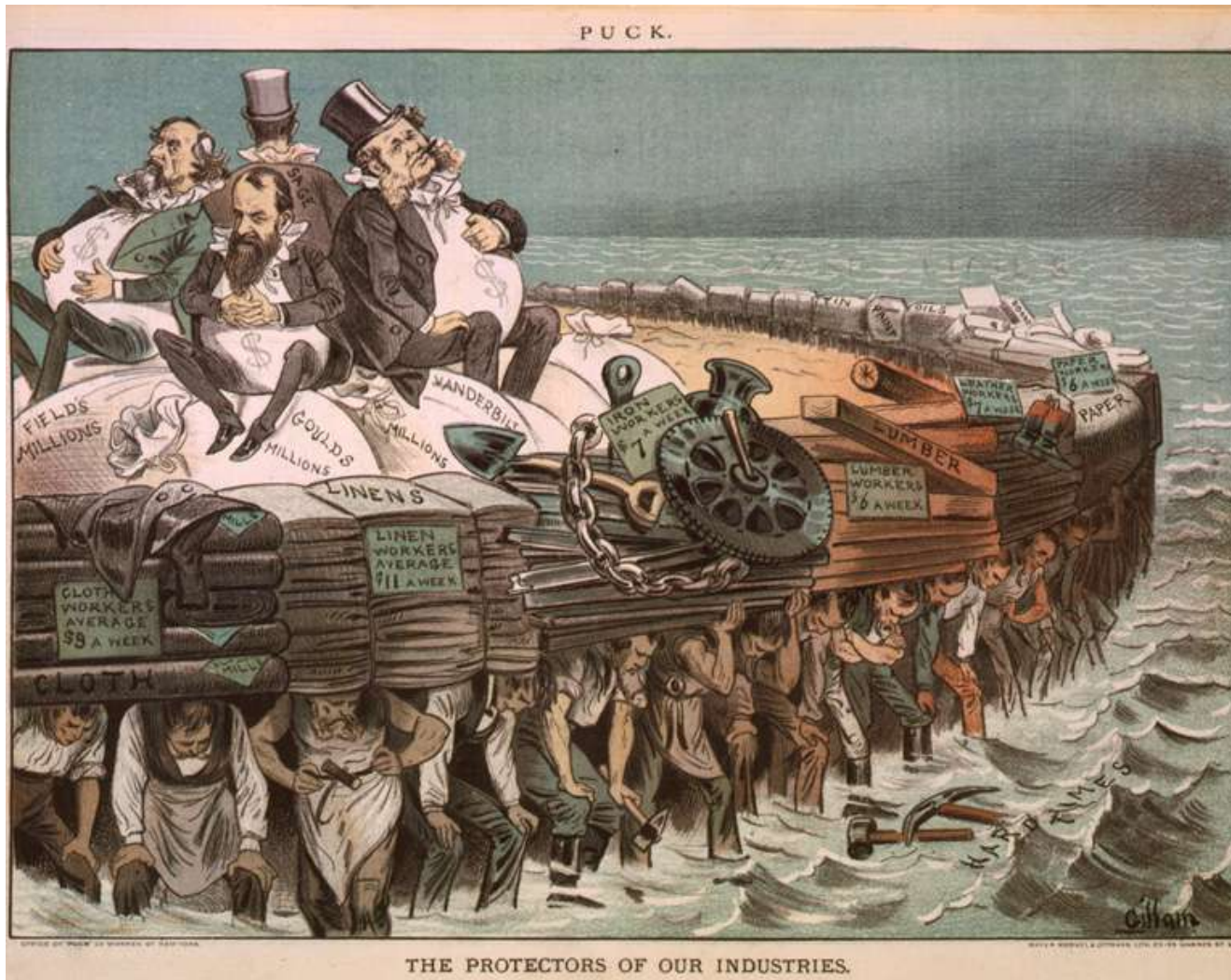


Name: _____

The Robber Barons



Highlight or circle the answers to questions 1 – 4.

1. What **words** do you notice in the cartoon?
2. What **objects** do you notice in the cartoon?
3. What **actions** do you notice in the cartoon?
4. What **people** do you notice in the cartoon?

Write the message of the cartoon:

The protectors of our industries
/ Gillam ; Mayer Merkel &
Ottmann lith., N.Y.: Published
by Keppler & Schwarzmann,
1883 February 7.

Context: As the United States transformed into an industrial society with little regulation of business (also known as laissez faire capitalism), it was possible for small numbers of men to dominate crucial industries. Facing few impediments to creating monopolies, engaging in shady stock trading practices, or exploiting workers, some individuals made enormous fortunes. These men came to be known as “robber barons,” a reference to their extraordinary wealth and the unscrupulous and sometimes dishonest tactics used to accumulate this wealth.¹

Many of the robber barons earned reputations for ruthlessness. Many were notorious (famous in a bad way) for their uses of questionable business tactics. These included various approaches to business dealings. Businesses used pooling, where businesses, especially railroads, divided up the markets in a specific area and agreed to charge the same high price for transportation. Railroads would also give rebates, secret discounts to their largest customers. Rockefeller and other refiners in Ohio and western Pennsylvania were infamous for their South Improvement Company (SIC) scheme, in which the largest refiners made an agreement with the three largest railroads wherein the railroads would give rebates to the large refiners, creating an increase in shipping costs for the independent oil refiners. It's believed that the threat of the SIC helped Rockefeller conduct his Cleveland Massacre, in which he purchased 22 of 26 of the Cleveland refineries in less than two months, setting Rockefeller on the path to a national monopoly of the oil industry. Others were infamous for their treatment of their workers. Often the men had enough influence to call on state governments to enlist the help of local militia to crush striking workers.

Many of the men engaged in philanthropic works after they had amassed their wealth, following Andrew Carnegie's edict that "the man who dies thus rich dies disgraced."

Our task is to evaluate some of these robber barons, looking at the specifics of how they made their wealth, their most noteworthy acts of generosity and their most infamous actions.

¹ McNamara, Robert. "Learn the History of the Term Robber Baron and Origins of the Name." *ThoughtCo*, <https://www.thoughtco.com/robber-baron-definition-1773342>. Accessed 3 Dec. 2017.

Directions: For each of the following people, do the following:

- Fill in the basic details of the chart from the reading from Business Insider
<https://www.businessinsider.com/robber-barons-who-built-and-ruled-america-2017-7/#john-jacob-astor-was-americas-first-multimillionaire-and-built-americas-first-monopoly-1>
- Step 2: Find more details for the chart by doing research using a trusted source from the internet. Make sure you include your trusted source and the reason you trust it in the far-right column.

Be prepared to enter into a conversation that evaluates the question: “Does the philanthropy of the robber barons outweigh the ways in which they made their money?”

	<i>Way(s) robber baron earned and donated his wealth</i>	<i>Reason(s) robber barons is infamous</i>	<i>Internet source and reason(s) you trust that source</i>
Andrew Carnegie			

John D. Rockefeller			
J. Pierpont Morgan			

John Jacob Astor			
Cornelius Vanderbilt			

James Buchanan Duke			
Marshall Field			