

The Progressive Era Photography Project

- Photography emerged as a form of technology, communication, and art during the mid-1800s.
- By time the 20th century began, there were thousands of photographers across the United States.
- Photography helps to bring history alive, and therefore is an important part of the study of American history from the 20th century.
- There are thousands of photographs available from the Progressive Era (the period from 1900-1920 characterized as a time featuring reactions to the great changes that had occurred in America during the late 19th century due to industrialization, urbanization, and immigration).

In the last few years, many of these photographs have been digitized, so now you can access them online.

Today, we will be examining the vast and rich collection of photographs that exist on the Internet.

1. You will examine the databases, archives, websites, and collections that I have located for you (all available on Mrs. Simon's website (simonbutler.weebly.com)).
2. Finally, you will be creating an exhibit of photographs that touch on at least three major themes of the Progressive Era, analyzing the photographs to explain what they have to tell about the Progressive Era and sharing your exhibit with your classmates (via a PowerPoint presentation).
3. More specific directions and a rubric for this project are found on the following pages.

Now that you have learned about some of the ways in which historians analyze historical photographs to learn about the past, you will be doing the same thing.

You will be exploring online photography resources (websites are posted on my website and listed below), seeing what types of photographs you find. Describe what you have seen on the next page.

Websites: The Triangle Factory Fire: <http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/trianglefire/photos/default.html>

Child Labor Photographs:

[http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/p?pp/nclc:@FIELD\(COLLID+nclc\)::SortBy=CALL](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/p?pp/nclc:@FIELD(COLLID+nclc)::SortBy=CALL)

Photographs from the Detroit Publishing Company:

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/touring/index.html>

Lewis W. Hine Child Labor Photographs: <http://www.historyplace.com/unitedstates/childlabor/index.html>

Votes for Women: Suffrage Pictures: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/vfwhtml/vfwhome.html>

Photographs from the Chicago Daily News:

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpcoop/ichihtml/cdnhome.html>

American Memory Project: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>

Muckrakers: <http://www.pace.edu/library/pages/links/muckrakers/Pages/Muckrakers.htm>

Lower East Side Tenement Museum: <http://www.tenement.org/research.html>

Photographs of Urbanization in the Progressive Era:

<http://memory.loc.gov/learn/features/timeline/progress/cities/urban.html>

American Photographs: The First Century <http://nmaa-ryder.si.edu/helios/amerphotos.html>

Photography and Social Reform: http://xroads.virginia.edu/~MA01/davis/photography/reform/progressive_era.html

You may look for other websites by Googling “Progressive Era Photographs”. Please check in with Mrs. Simon to have site approved.

1. List the website you have visited (you must visit at least 4 of the websites) and describe the types of images that you see.

Website #1

Website #2

Website #3

Website #4

After spending some time exploring the websites, you will be choosing 5 photographs from the Progressive Era from the websites, and analyzing those photographs using the method that you have just learned. The photographs that you select must represent at least 3 of the themes of the Progressive Era listed below.

- Corporations and Labor: Child labor, unions, worker and consumer protection, Triangle Fire, The Jungle, etc.
- Urbanization and Immigration: Growth of cities, nativism, settlement houses, etc.
- Women’s Rights: Birth control movement, suffragettes, changing role of women in society.
- Progressive Reformers: Politicians, muckrakers, crusaders.
- Political changes: Votes for women, government reforms, progressive political interventions.
- Temperance/Prohibition: Moderation or banning of alcohol.
- You may also select a theme of your own choosing-- consider: conservation, social welfare, tariffs, anti-trust action, youth reform, socialism.

While you are looking for your 5 photographs, keep in mind that you are looking for photographs with a story to tell. Look for photographs that raise questions in your mind regarding what is going on in the picture, who the people are, and what the image represents. You should save the links to your photographs by copying and pasting the links onto a Microsoft Word document. You may choose to find your 5 photographs and then analyze the pictures OR select and analyze photographs one at a time. Follow the steps you learned on the Picturing Modern America site:

- 1) Form a question about the image.
- 2) Gather clues about what is going on in the image.
- 3) Use information to analyze what is going on in the image.
- 4) Draw a conclusion about the image.

After you have analyzed your images, open up PowerPoint. You will be creating a PowerPoint slide show of your images. Your slide show must have the following features:

_____ Slide 1: Title Page featuring your name.

_____ Slide 2: A summary (at least two sentences) defining the Progressive Era (in your own words).

_____ Slides 3, 4, 5, 6, 7: Your image (copy and paste it from the site you found it on and analysis of the image. The analysis must be based upon following the four steps from Picturing Modern America AND must describe which theme of the Progressive Era the image is representative of. You must also put the web address of the photograph so that I will know where you got it from.

