1870 – 1900

Gilded Age Quiz

Name _____ Date _____

Fill in the circle beside the best answer.

1. Why is this period called the 'Gilded Age'?

- (A) Newspapers used the term after large gold strikes in the West made many people rich
- (B) Mark Twain used the term for a shiny surface that hid serious social problems
- (C) Andrew Carnegie used the term to praise the great wealth made by the steel industry
- (D) President Grant used the term in a speech about the nation's hundredth birthday

2. What did the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869 accomplish?

- (A) It created the first railroad owned by the US government and ended private rail companies
- (B) It created the first railroad linking the US and Canada and opened Alaska to settlement
- (C) It created the first railroad between New York and Chicago and opened the Midwest to trade
- (D) It created the first railroad across the continental US and opened the West to settlement

3. What was Standard Oil, and why was it significant?

- (A) Rockefeller's company, which controlled about 90% of US oil refining through a trust
- (B) Carnegie's company, which controlled about 90% of US steel production through a trust
- (C) Vanderbilt's company, which controlled most US railroad lines through a trust
- (D) A government agency, which controlled the price of US oil sold to other countries

4. What happened at the Haymarket Affair in 1886?

- (A) A Chicago railroad strike over wage cuts was ended when federal troops arrived
- (B) A Pennsylvania steel strike over wage cuts turned violent when armed guards arrived
- (C) A Chicago labor rally for the eight-hour day turned violent when a bomb exploded
- (D) A New York bank failure set off a stock market crash and a long depression

5. What did the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890 do?

- (A) It became the first federal law setting an eight-hour workday in factories
- (B) It became the first federal law banning business practices that restrain trade
- (C) It became the first federal law giving workers the right to form unions and strike
- (D) It became the first federal law placing an income tax on large companies

6. What was the Homestead Strike of 1892?

- (A) A strike over long hours on the railroads where workers won the eight-hour workday
- (B) A strike over unsafe coal mines in Colorado where workers lost to federal army troops
- (C) A strike over wage cuts at Standard Oil where workers won a new contract and higher pay
- (D) A strike over wage cuts at Carnegie Steel that was broken after state troops were sent in

7. What characterized the Gilded Age economy?

- (A) Fast industrial growth made a few owners very rich while most workers earned low wages
- (B) Strict government rules kept companies small while unions won high wages for most workers
- (C) Slow industrial growth kept factories small while farming remained the main source of wealth
- (D) Fast industrial growth raised wages so much that the gap between rich and poor nearly closed

8. What did the Panic of 1893 reveal about the Gilded Age economy?

- (A) That bank failures hurt wealthy owners far more than ordinary workers
- (B) That strong federal rules on business had kept unemployment very low
- (C) That booms and busts hurt ordinary workers far more than the wealthy
- (D) That the economy was steady and could recover from a crash within weeks

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Gilded Age Quiz: Answer Key

1. **B** Mark Twain used the term for a shiny surface that hid serious social problems

2. **D** It created the first railroad across the continental US and opened the West to settlement

3. **A** Rockefeller's company, which controlled about 90% of US oil refining through a trust

4. **C** A Chicago labor rally for the eight-hour day turned violent when a bomb exploded

5. **B** It became the first federal law banning business practices that restrain trade

6. **D** A strike over wage cuts at Carnegie Steel that was broken after state troops were sent in

7. **A** Fast industrial growth made a few owners very rich while most workers earned low wages

8. **C** That booms and busts hurt ordinary workers far more than the wealthy