

Milton S. Hershey and the Gilded Age

Grade Levels – 6-8

Standards –

Pennsylvania Academic Standards for History:

8.1.12. B, 8.2.12. A., 8.2.12. B, 8.2.12. D, 8.3.12. A, 8.3.12. B, 8.3.12. D, 1.1.11 G, 1.1.11. D, 1.1.8.B, 1.1.8.F.

Materials Needed –

- Robber Baron Info Sheet
- Computers or printouts of “Robber Baron” Biographic info
- “Robber Baron” Compare and Contrast Graphic Organizer

Teacher Background –

This lesson is intended to enrich your students’ visit to The Hershey Story. It seeks to evaluate Milton Hershey’s life and legacy and compare his work to the other prominent industry leaders of his day. During this lesson, students will identify significant robber barons, compare and contrast their business and philanthropy styles, and create an “IM” style conversation between two important business leaders. This lesson will take approximately one 50- minute class period to complete.

Lesson Plan

Essential Question –

What made Milton Hershey different from other businessmen living during his time?

Vocabulary – (Have these words and their definitions posted in your classroom)

1. Robber Baron
2. Gilded Age
3. Philanthropy

Activating Strategies –

Step 1 – Divide your class into groups of three

Step 2 – Give each group a packet containing info. on 3 “Robber Barons”

Step 3 – Ask each student to read one set of biographic information.

Step 4 – Ask each group to discuss their individuals with each other

Step 5 – Have each group find one similarity and one difference between each man.

Teaching Strategies –

Step 1 – Pass out the “Robber Barons Compare and Contrast Graphic Organizer.”

Step 2 – Ask each group to choose 1 man besides Milton Hershey to compare and contrast.

Step 3 – Instruct each group to find 3 similarities between each of the men they read about.

- Each man owned a large business
- Each man was very wealthy
- Each man started with relatively little money and worked his way to the top

Step 4 – Ask each group to find 3 differences between each man

Step 5 – Instruct each group to share their responses for the Similarities and differences for each of the three men.

Summarizing Strategies:

Instruct your students to individually create an “IM” style conversation between two of the men studied in class today. The topic of the discussion should be “What percentage of your income should be given back to your workers.” The conversation should be at least 10 lines long and should include at least 5 specific details from the biographies and compare and contrast organizers completed in class.

“Robber Baron” Compare and Contrast Graphic Organizer

Similarities

Milton S. Hershey	
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

Differences

Milton S. Hershey	With Regard To...	
1.	1. Philanthropy	1.
2.	2. Type of Business	2.
3.	3. Background	3.