

6.3 CHECKPOINT - THE PROGRESSIVE ERA

SHORT ESSAY

Choose one of the following prompts to which you will write a short essay:

- 1. Describe the working environment for employees and the condition of factories during the Progressive Era and then explain some of the methods used to improve these situations.**

The working environment for employees during the Progressive Era was horrible for a while. Miners and textile workers breathed in fibers and dust, steelworkers were burned and killed by the vats of molten metal and there was nothing they could do about it. The employers were not held responsible for injuries on the job. It was said to cut costs and increase production. After a major incident in New York, many states started approving safety laws to protect factory workers. Many methods were used to improve the situation on the health of workers. A lot factory workers started labor unions to fight for better working conditions, higher wages and shorter hours. Another method was to go on strike.