**Peanut’s Gallery: Gilded Age America**

Each group will be assigned a different topic from Gilded Age America. These topics include a list of the important figures of the time period and the topic area. Each group member will be responsible for producing a short biography of the person they have chosen from the list.

**Groups**

Robber Barons/Captains of Industry- J. P. Morgan, John Rockefeller, Andrew Carnegie, Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jay Gould, Henry Clay Frick

Critics- Eugene V. Debs, Terence V. Powderly, William H. Sylvis, Victor Berger, Karl Marx, Lucy Parsons

Politics- Roscoe Conklin, James Garfield, Chester A. Arthur, Grover Cleveland, Benjamin Harrison, James B. Weaver

Individual Work

Your biography will be 1 page, total. It must include the following information:

-Name

-An image of your person

-Date of Birth and Date of Death

-250-300 word biography discussing the important aspects of the person’s life, as related to your topic and the time period.

- 1-3 sentence explanation of how this person is related to your group’s topic.

Group Work

Once all of individual biographies are complete, you will assemble your Peanut Gallery into a book. Your book must include a title page, which indicates your topic and the figures presented within. On the inside of your cover page, you must include each group member’s name, including which biography they completed.

Directions: To complete your Peanut’s Gallery Booklet, you must include a cover and a back page assessment.

Cover

The Peanut’s Gallery Cover should be neat (extra points for creativity!) and include the following:

-Your topic

-The project’s group members

-class period

Back Page Assessment

The Back Page Assessment should include the following:

-An explanation of what all of your figures have in common. (2-4 sentences)

-An explanation of what why your topic defines the time period.

-Example- “The 1950s was clearly The Age of Reaction, because of powerful attacks from the government against labor unions, third party politics, and the Red Scare.”

**Leon Trotsky**



Life: October 26, 1879 – August 21, 1940

Biography: Leon Trotsky (born Lev Davidovich Bronstein) was an important figure in the Russian Revolution. A long-term member of Russia’s underground radical movements, Trotsky joined Lenin’s Bolshevik party at the start of the Russian Revolution. Trotsky served in several important, high-level offices during the Russian Revolution, but was instrumental in forming the Red Army. Trotsky organized the Red Army out of urban workers, peasants, and remnants of the old Imperial Army and forged them into an effective fighting force. Between 1919-1922, Trotsky would lead the Red Army against the enemies of the Revolution, known as the White Army. At one point, Trotsky would oversee fighting on 14 different fronts and, in the end, won the war. After the death of V. I. Lenin in 1924, Trotsky vied with Joseph Stalin for control of the Soviet Union, expressing a concern that the bureaucracy of the state was becoming too powerful and stifling freedom. Ultimately, Trotsky lost his struggle and was driven into exile. Trotsky would travel the world, living in Turkey, France, Norway, and finally Mexico. While in Mexico, Trotsky would form an alternative form of Communism, known as Trotskyism, to fight back against Stalin’s Soviet Union. Trotsky would write extensively during his exile, including valuable histories of the Russian Revolution, theoretical works on economics, politics, and society, and worker’s struggles. Trotsky was assassinated by a Stalinist agent in 1940, who stabbed him with an ice pick.

Relevancy: Our group’s topic was “The Russian Revolution.” Trotsky’s role in the Revolution was as one of its chief leaders, notably for his value in organizing and leading the Red Army against the White Russians.