

Warm-up

- The author's opinion of the role of farmers in society and government is that farmers are essential and should be in control of the government. He believes they are underrepresented in government, and they should be playing a bigger role in government.

Lesson

GRADE LEVEL AND FOUNDATIONS

The Problem with Cotton, 1870 - 1900

1. Cotton Prices
2. Farmers grew more cotton
3. Cotton flooded the market
4. Cotton prices dropped lower

The Effects of Falling Cotton Prices

- B, C, E

The Grange

- A. 2
- B. 1
- C. 3

The Farmer's Alliance

- The Grange and the Farmer's Alliance were similar because they were both established to support struggling farmers.

The Farmer's Alliance Platform

*Platform letter **A** would support struggling farmers by **F**) reducing the amount farmers had to pay to sell their crops*

*Platform letter **B** would support struggling farmers by **(E)** reducing the cost of shipping crops*

*Platform letter **C** would support struggling farmers by **(G)** having more money in the economy*

*Platform letter **D** would support struggling farmers by **(H)** making sure there wasn't too much cotton available.*

Answer Key: The Problem with Cotton

The Populist Party

- Similarity: The Grange, Farmer's Alliance, and the Populist Party were all established to help struggling workers.
- Difference: The Grange and Farmer's Alliance were established specifically to support farmers, while the Populists supported all laborers.

The Populist Party Platform

- The Populist Party platform **was not** in line with the Redeemer's support of limited government because the Populists wanted more government involvement in the economy and the Redeemers wanted very little government involvement.

The Effects of Labor Organizing

- They achieved some regulation of transportation and commerce.
- They made people aware of challenges facing farmers and workers.

ADVANCED

The Problem with Cotton, 1870 - 1900

1. Cotton Prices
2. Farmers grew more cotton
3. Cotton flooded the market
4. Cotton prices dropped lower

The Effects of Falling Cotton Prices

- Tenant farming would not be likely to help farmers who were already struggling because they would have to pay rent on the land they were working on, which would increase their expenses. Many tenant farmers would go into debt as a result of tenancy.

Answer Key: The Problem with Cotton

The Grange

- Limiting government spending and taxes would reduce the amount of money farmers owed to the government in taxes.
- Government regulation of railroad rates would reduce the amount of money farmers needed to pay to transport their crops to market.
- Non-profit cooperative groups that could sell crops for farmers without a fee would reduce farmer expenses and allow them to take home more of their profits.

The Farmer's Alliance

- The Grange and the Farmer's Alliance were similar in that they were both established to help struggling farmers.

The Farmer's Alliance Platform

- Establishing non-profit cooperative groups to sell crops for farmers without a fee would reduce farmer expenses and allow them to take home more of their profits.
- Government regulation of railroad rates would reduce the amount of money farmers needed to pay to transport their crops to market.
- Abandoning the gold standard and include "Free Silver" to expand the money supply would increase how much money was in circulation, allowing more money to get to more people.
- Subtreasury Plan: Government establishment of warehouses to store surplus cotton to prevent flooding the market would prevent cotton prices from dropping lower due to oversupply.

The Populist Party

- The Populist Party was established for all workers, while the Grange and Farmer's Alliance were established specifically for farmers.
- All organizations were established to help people who struggled financially.

The Populist Party Platform

- The Populist Party platform was not in line with limited government because they wanted more government involvement and regulation in the economy.

Answer Key: The Problem with Cotton

The Effects of Labor Organizing

- Labor organizations like the Grange, Farmer's Alliance, and Populist Party had some success in affecting politics and bringing attention to issues that were important to workers, however they were never as powerful as the two main parties and they were short-lived.

Exit Ticket

Responses will vary but may include:

- The People's Party was formed because of problems like low prices, high costs, and tenant farming.
- The government wasn't doing enough to help people, so farmers organized the People's Party in 1891.
- The People's Party is also known as the Populist Party.
- The Populist Party did not last long.
- In the U.S., most third parties don't last long.
- The Democratic Party adopted parts of the Populists' platform in 1896.