**THE GROWTH OF BIG BUSINESS**

The growth of big business and industry had both advantages and disadvantages for the American people. At first, wealthy owners of big businesses benefited at the expense of the working class. But in time, workers too saw an improvement in their standard of living.

Directions: As your read the statements below, decide which ones are advantages and which ones are disadvantages of the age of big business. Fill in each space with an A or D for disadvantage.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Manufacturing was done by machine instead of by hand.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ The opening of factories provided new job opportunities for thousands of people.
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ An impersonal relationship developed between workers and their employers.
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Large urban areas experienced the beginning of air and water pollution.
5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ A huge increased occurred in the amount and variety of goods produced.
6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Factory workers were on the job six days a week.
7. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ New standards of workmanship raised the quality of consumer goods.
8. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Schools and universities were founded to train engineers and clerical and

professional workers.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Machines forced laborers to work faster and without rest periods.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Factory work usually involved doing the same thing over and over again during the

day.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Most workers who found job s in the cities lived in run-down neighborhoods called

“slums.”

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ A typical day for factory workers was 12 hours in length.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Many young children worked 10 to 12 hours a day.
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Mass production methods made manufactured goods more affordable.
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Men were paid low wages, while women and children earned even less.
5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Early factories were poorly lighted, heated, and ventilated.
6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Labor unions eventually won shorter hours, better pay, and improved conditions for

workers.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Many immigrants took away from Americans because they were willing to work for

low wages.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Such inventions as the vacuum cleaner, automobile, and telephone saved hours of

work and improved transportation and communication

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Industry adopted Eli Whitney’s system of standardized parts, so that parts which

wore out or broke could easily be replaced.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ The assembly line, improved by Henry Ford, made it possible to turn out large

quantities of goods quickly at low cost.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Corporations created jobs for more workers.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Corporations sometimes established monopolies, and sold their products at high

prices.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Americans had the opportunity to buy shares of stock in a corporation, and receive

dividends when the company made a profit.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Sometimes big business bribed government officials, or used other methods to get

laws passed which favored it.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Corporations could raise huge sums of money to start new industries.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Industries began to use up such natural resources as iron, coal, and forest products.
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Consumers were now able to shop at department stores, specialty shops, and mail-

order houses.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Small businesses found it difficult to compete with large corporations.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Workers lost their jobs when business suffered during recessions and depressions.