The Progressive Era in Tennessee

*How “progressive” were we??*

In your group read through pages 31-40 in the Tennessee History for Kids text.

Answer the following questions in your notes:

1. Identify the following people and their impact on Tennessee during the progressive era:

William C Handy

Bessie Smith

George Hay

2. How will African American musicians impact the Grand Ole Opry?

3. Identify 4 examples that show discrimination against blacks during the Progressive era in Tennessee:

4. How does President Woodrow Wilson handle segregation?

5. Who is James C. Napier?

6. How will the rebirth of the KKK impact Tennessee?

1. Identify the following people and their impact on Tennessee during the progressive era:

William C Handy (WC Handy)

* African American musician
* Self-published song writer
* Known for internationally famous songs such as “Memphis Blues,” “St. Louis Blues”
* Helped spread the blues sound
* Helped make other musicians careers

Bessie Smith

* African American blues singer
* “empress of the blues”
* From Chattanooga
* Starred in the film “St. Louis Blues” in 1929
* Career was helped by WC Handy

George Hay

* Radio announcer for WSM in Nashville
* 1925 creates a Saturday night show featuring Hillbilly music
* This show will become the Grand Ole Opry

2. How will African American musicians impact the Grand Ole Opry?

* Many of the early songs played by Opry artist were originally played by African Americans
* Use of the banjo which was an African instrument
* DeFord Bailey- African American musician, one of the early starts of the Opry

3. Identify 4 examples that show discrimination against blacks during the Progressive era in Tennessee:

* Poll tax instituted in 1870 and passed into law in 1889
* Dortch Law- made it illegal to assist a voter with a ballot unless they had been a registered voter prior to 1857
* Creation of “at large” districts- made it harder for black candidates to get elected
* Voter intimidation

4. How does President Woodrow Wilson handle segregation?

* Imposed racial segregation in US Government offices that had originally been integrated

5. Who is James C. Napier?

* A black man from Nashville
* Was the Register of the US Treasury, he was appointed by the previous president William H. Taft
* His signature appeared on all money printed by the government at that time
* Resigned in protest after Wilson forced his clerks to segregate

6. How will the rebirth of the KKK impact Tennessee?

* The release of the film Birth of a Nation will allow the Klan to have a comeback
* In Nashville the klan will construct a meeting hall that could hold 6000 people—this was the largest meeting venue in Nashville at the time
* The Tennessean reported at the time that the klan stood for “stomping out the liquor traffic, bringing criminals to justice, protecting womanhood, securing white supremacy, and keeping the ballot box clean>’

\*\* this question was not assigned just mentioned during review

1. What event led to the prohibition of alcohol in Tennessee 10 years before the ratification of the 18th amendment?

* Edward Carmack🡪 opposed big business & supported prohibition
  + one time senator for Tennessee becomes editor of the Nashville Tennessean newspaper,
  + begins attacking (by writing editiorials in the newspaper) Governor Patterson for opposing prohibition, he also attacks Duncan Cooper, one of Gov. Patterson’s close advisors
* Duncan Cooper🡪
  + Gov. Patterson’s close advisor
  + After being attacked in the newspaper he writes to Carmack stating “you have no right in this manner to annoy, insult, or injure me than you would have to do so to my face.”
* Carmack continues his written attack
* The men being arming themselves and meet in downtown Nashville
* Carmack ends up dead and becomes a martyr for the prohibition movement
* In 1909 the TN General Assembly votes to ban the sale, manufacture, and consumption of alcohol