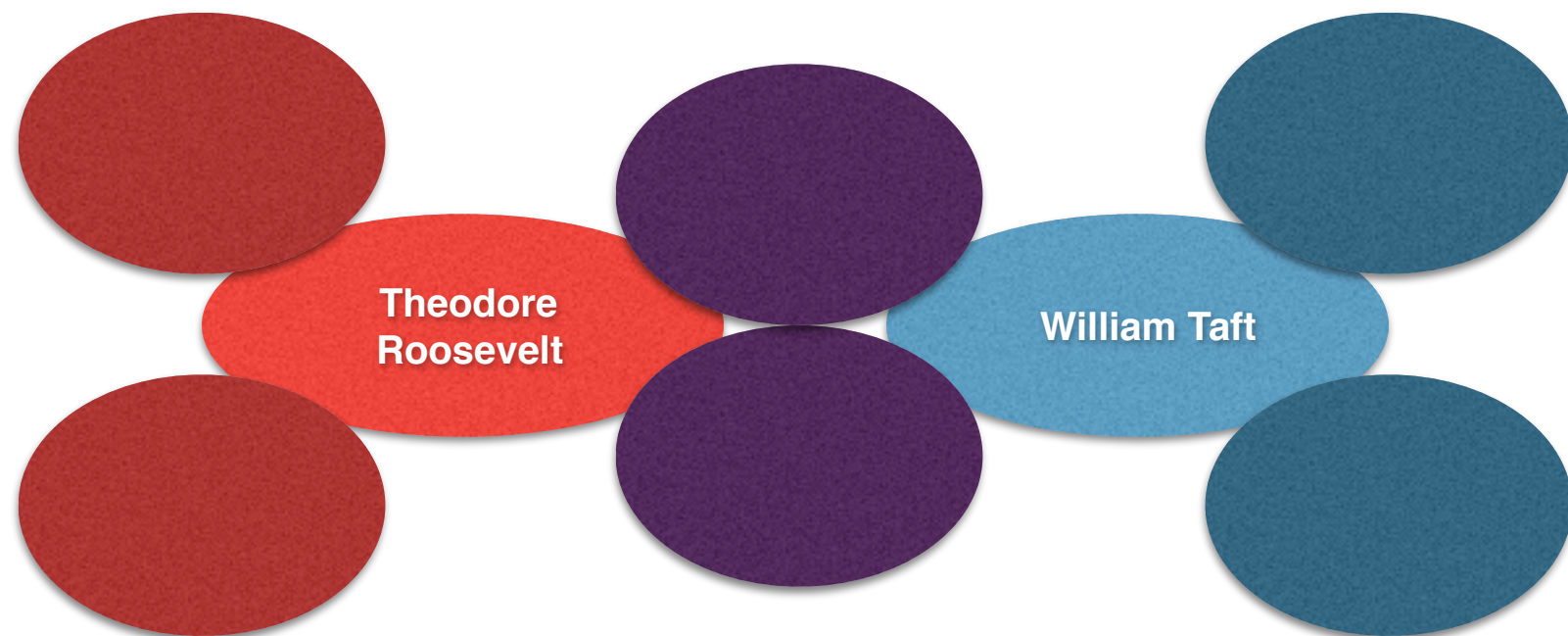


Roosevelt and Taft

Big Idea

As you read through these passages, complete this web diagram by comparing and contrasting the ideas of Presidents Roosevelt and Taft.



Roosevelt Revives the Presidency

Identifying the Main Idea

Write the main idea in this passage.

President Roosevelt believed in both progressivism and **Social Darwinism**. He thought large corporations, helped the United States prosper. He also thought the government should balance the needs of groups in American society. His reforms programs were known as the Square Deal.

Roosevelt did not hesitate to enforce the law. When the rail- road company Northern Securities tried to form a monopoly, Roosevelt sued them under the Sherman Antitrust Act. Other times he negotiated. He struck a deal with U.S. Steel that allowed the government to go over its books privately. This prevented a lawsuit and the disruption of the economy.

Roosevelt also felt it was his duty as the nation's "head man- ager" to prevent conflict. A union of coal mine workers—the United Mine Workers—launched a strike in eastern Pennsylvania. It led to a potential crisis in the supply of the nation's coal. As the strike wore on, Roosevelt asked the union and the owners to agree to arbitration—a settlement imposed by an outside party. The owners eventually agreed to a settlement.

Conservation

Detecting Bias

Circle by the statement Roosevelt would most likely agree with.

The need for timber now outweighs the health of timber supplies.

Protecting the environment is an investment in the future.

Roosevelt also cared about environmental conservation. He was alarmed at the rate at which natural resources were being used. He introduced reform to save the nation's forests through timber management. He also added over 100 million acres to the protected national forests, established five new national parks, and established 51 federal wildlife reserves.

Taft's Reforms

Making Generalizations

Make a generalization* about Taft's presidency.

*a general statement or concept obtained by inference from specific cases.

President Roosevelt and President Taft agreed on many Progressive issues and were close friends. However, they disagreed on some subjects. One was tariffs. Taft believed high tariffs limited competition and protected trusts. His attempt to lower tariffs divided progressives and conservative Republicans. Taft signed the Payne-Aldrich Tariff into law, but it reduced some tariffs only a little and actually raised others.

Taft replaced Roosevelt's conservationist secretary of the interior with a more conservative corporate lawyer, Richard A. Ballinger. This made some progressives unhappy. One official, Gifford Pinchot, accused Ballinger of wrongdoing. Although the attorney general found his charges groundless, Pinchot leaked the story to the press. Taft fired Pinchot for **insubordination**, or disobedience.

Taft did have some successes. He pursued progressive policies on child labor and established the Children's Bureau. Like Roosevelt, Taft was a dedicated conservationist. He expanded national forests and protected waterpower sites.

Yet his friendship with Roosevelt was damaged. Roosevelt was so annoyed by some of Taft's policies, he ran for president again in the 1912 election. Both he and Taft lost to Woodrow Wilson.

Section Wrap-Up

Answer these questions to check your understanding of the entire section.

1. What efforts did Roosevelt make to regulate concentrated corporate power?

2. How did both Roosevelt and Taft promote environmental conservation?