

THE HISTORY CHANNEL CLASSROOM STUDY GUIDES

Empires of Industry

Empires of Industry is a series that explores the cornerstones of America's economic might that established the United States as a world leader. Each of the one-hour programs in this remarkable series focuses on an industry that played a unique role in America's rise to world economic dominance. The stories of changing fortunes in the Steel, Coal, Brewing, Ship Building and Textile and other American industries reveal much about our country's past and present.

Empires of Industry would be useful for classes on American History, History of Science and Technology, Economics and American Culture. It is appropriate for middle school and high school.

Timber!

This episode of *Empires of Industry* examines the logging industry that was a mainstay of westward expansion. Since America's colonial days, its abundant forests have played a role in its economic growth. The industrialization of the 19th century increased the importance of the timber business as railroads consumed wood at a rate faster than ever. As the 20th dawned, timber barons realized that the once abundant resource would not last forever and efforts to conserve and reforest depleted areas began.

- clout
- conglomerate
- coveted
- destitute
- exploitation
- flamboyant
- foreboding
- insatiable
- lathe
- methodical
- omnipotent
- precariously
- primitive
- primordial
- proxy
- scenario
- scour
- stipulated
- veneer
- vermin

Discussion Questions

1. Logging camps are small communities unto themselves. How do these camps have their own unique culture? What other occupations have their own culture?
2. Logging was a seasonal occupation in the 19th century and the early 20th century. Why? What other industries are or were seasonal? How has technology changed the seasonal nature of some industries?
3. Loggers lived in camps for a few months at a time. Discuss the living conditions of these camps.
4. Great Britain coveted the timber of the virgin American forests. Why were these forests and their products so attractive to Great Britain?

5. What was Parliament's "White Pine Act" of 1722? How did this legislation contribute to the American Revolution?
6. Discuss the role of the timber industry in America's westward expansion and policy of "manifest destiny."
7. How did industrialization influence and/or change the timber industry? Compare the timber industry with other American big businesses of the era.
8. Although lumberjacks were the main workers in the logging camps, the camps depended on other workers also. What were some of the other occupations in the camps? How did these workers contribute to the success of the camp?
9. Logging was a very dangerous occupation. Discuss some of the dangers of the job.
10. Frederick Weyerhaeuser built the largest timber business in America. Discuss how Weyerhaeuser was the epitome of 19th century "American dream."
11. How did the Civil War contribute to the success of Frederick Weyerhaeuser?
12. Discuss the role of President Theodore Roosevelt in the conservation of America's resources.

Extended Activities

1. Create an illustration of one of the adventures of the mythic lumberjack, Paul Bunyon.
2. Imagine you are a logger in the 19th century. Create a diary or journal that tells of your stay in a logging camp and about the rigors of your job.
3. Create a poster that illustrates the process of plywood production.