Survey for Incoming Freshmen in U.S. History Surveys
Administered by UW System Faculty and Staff
Fall 2010

(**Note:** Of the 472 students who responded: 241 are from UW-Oshkosh; 124 are from UW-Green Bay; and 107 are from Marathon County and UW-Waukesha campuses)

1. Farmers faced many problems during the nineteenth century. Which organization strove to address Midwestern farmers' grievances?
a) The Progressive Party
b) The Grange
c) The National Labor Union
d) The American Federation of Labor *(14% of students answered correctly)*
e) The Congress of Industrial Organizations

2. Immigrant workers who settled in the United States in the late 19th and early 20th centuries were typically born in:
a) North and Western Europe
b) South and Eastern Europe *(33% answered correctly)*
c) Africa
d) China and Japan

3. Which of the following statements about Populist farmers is *not* true:
a) they backed William Jennings Bryan for president in 1896
b) they were concentrated in the Northeastern United States *(32% answered correctly)*
c) they called for an expansion of government in order to protect their economic interests
d) they favored the creation of a currency backed by silver, not gold

4. Young New England farm women became an important part of the First Industrial Revolution as:
a) china and pottery workers at Penobscot, Maine.
b) textile mill workers at Lowell, Massachusetts. *(67% answered correctly)*
c) steel mill workers at Carnegie, Ppennsylvania.
d) railroad workers on the Boston & Maine Railroad.

5. The formation of the _____ during the 1930s triggered a significant effort to organize American laborers throughout entire industries such as steel:
a) The AFL
b) The CIO *(21% answered correctly)*
c) The IWW
d) The Knights of Labor

6. During the 1980s, during the presidency of Ronald Reagan, the power of organized labor within the United States _____.
a) stayed roughly the same
b) increased
c) decreased *(21% answered correctly)*
d) made a big push forward

7. What early labor organization, formed in 1869, flourished under Terrence Powderly and boasted more than a half-million members before declining in membership in the mid-1880s?
a) AFL-CIO
b) Knights of Labor *(36% answered correctly)*
c) Populists
d) Patrons of Husbandry

8. Throughout the period of the "Gilded Age" at the end of the nineteenth century, the federal government and state governments almost always sided with industrial management against the interests of workers:
a) True *(65% answered correctly)*
b) False

9. The invention of agricultural machinery at times impacted farmers negatively since:
a) it made farmers too lazy
b) it failed to work the soil in the same nutrient-restoring manner as horse-drawn plows
c) it created better yields but ultimately lowered the price farmers received for the product they raised *(78% answered correctly)*
d) it limited the labor farmers could perform during periods of low sunlight

10. Congress passed the _____, a law which made it possible for unions to organize legally and bargain in good faith with employers:
a) Fair Labor Standards Act of 1967
b) Wagner Act or National Labor Relations Act of 1935 *(27% answered correctly)*
c) Labor Group Ordinance of 1902
d) Fair Industrial Union Act of 1980

11. The industrial labor performed by children at the turn of the twentieth century was typically far more taxing and difficult than the agricultural labor children performed on farms:
a) True *(56% answered correctly)*
b) False

12. Women working in defense industries during World War II:
a) were viewed as permanent workers after the war, so long as they did a good job
b) were told by advertisers that they were necessary in the fight for freedom
c) did not make much difference in the war effort
d) were small in numbers, as most women took clerical work or joined the military service as nurses *(46% answered correctly)*

13. Assembly lines and the development of Frederick Taylor's scientific management:
a) gave workers greater knowledge of their industry. *(40% answered correctly)*
b) created safer more interesting jobs for factory workers.
c) worked against the interests of factory owners
d) undermined worker's skill and independence.