Reform for Whom?

Progressive reform and its limits in Indiana

IS.1.14 "Explain the origins, goals, achievements, and limitations of the Progressive Movement in addressing political, economic, and social reform in Indiana."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two conditions that sparked reform, circle three government actions, and write A beside two achievements and L beside two limitations. Use your marks to explain both what changed and who was left out or harmed.

Changing Indiana, Unevenly

1 At the start of the twentieth century, Indiana's growing cities and factories drew workers into crowded neighborhoods. Injuries at work, unsafe housing, and city political organizations that traded favors for votes convinced many residents that government should act. Reformers called themselves Progressives, but they did not agree on every remedy. Some sought cleaner elections so party leaders would have less control over nominations; others wanted public officials to protect workers and families. Women organized clubs and pressed lawmakers even though they could not vote in state elections. These efforts grew from local problems and a national movement to use government to curb abuses.

2 In 1915, Indiana adopted a workers' compensation law that provided payments for many employees hurt on the job without requiring them to prove an employer's fault in court. This was an economic reform, but payments did not erase injuries or cover every worker. In 1917, the legislature gave women limited voting rights in some elections. The Indiana Supreme Court struck down that law the same year, showing how state law could block a political goal. Indiana ratified the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920; the amendment then barred denying the vote on the basis of sex nationwide.

3 Progressives also claimed they could improve society through science and public policy. Indiana's 1907 law authorized the forced sterilization of some people held in state institutions, part of a national eugenics movement. Supporters called it a way to solve social problems; in reality, it violated bodily autonomy and targeted people who had little power to resist. The Indiana Supreme Court ruled the law unconstitutional in 1921. The contrast matters: expanding protection for injured workers and widening voting rights did not mean every reform respected equal rights. To judge the movement, ask who gained power, who remained unprotected, and who was harmed.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did two conditions in Indiana help shape different Progressive reform goals?

2. What did workers' compensation achieve, and what could it not fix?

3. How did Indiana's 1917 voting law and its later ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment show both an obstacle and an achievement?

4. Why does the 1907 sterilization law complicate a claim that Progressive social reform made Indiana fairer?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write an 80 to 100 word museum label arguing whether Indiana's Progressive reforms made society fairer overall. Connect an original problem to a reform goal, compare two reforms from the passage, and support your judgment with an achievement and a limitation.

ANSWER KEY

Reform for Whom?

HIGH SCHOOL · IS.1.14

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two conditions that sparked reform, circle three government actions, and write A beside two achievements and L beside two limitations. Use your marks to explain both what changed and who was left out or harmed. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did two conditions in Indiana help shape different Progressive reform goals?	**Workplace injuries helped drive the goal of protecting workers, while political organizations that traded favors for votes helped drive the goal of cleaner elections.**
2	What did workers' compensation achieve, and what could it not fix?	**It provided payments for many injured employees without requiring proof of employer fault in court, but it did not prevent injuries or cover every worker.**
3	How did Indiana's 1917 voting law and its later ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment show both an obstacle and an achievement?	**The state supreme court struck down the 1917 law granting women limited voting rights. Indiana later ratified the Nineteenth Amendment, which barred denying the vote on the basis of sex.**
4	Why does the 1907 sterilization law complicate a claim that Progressive social reform made Indiana fairer?	**Supporters claimed the law would solve social problems, but it authorized forced sterilization of people in state institutions and violated their bodily autonomy.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Indiana's Progressives saw factory injuries and unequal political power as problems government could address. Workers' compensation aimed to protect employees and gave many injured workers payments without requiring proof of employer fault. By contrast, expanding women's voting rights faced a setback when a state law was struck down, though Indiana later ratified the Nineteenth Amendment. These changes widened protections and political rights, but not every reform made society fairer. The state's 1907 sterilization law harmed people held in institutions. Indiana's record shows real gains, yet its achievements cannot excuse that violation of bodily autonomy.

Accept other passage-supported links between conditions and goals in question 1. For the museum label, look for a supported judgment that weighs gains against limits or harm rather than listing reforms.