**Robber Barons or Captains of Industry?**

**Part 1**: Read 2 biographies of business leaders and fill in the chart.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Person #1: | Person #2: |
| Describe how he acquired his wealth.  *\*\*Be very specific here\*\** |  |  |
| Describe how he treated his employees. |  |  |
| Describe how he spent his money. |  |  |
| Describe how he donated his money. |  |  |
| Is he a captain of industry or robber baron? Give 2 reasons. |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date of Death | 1820-1864 | 1865-1900 | 1901-1945 | 1946-1990 | 1991- Still Living |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Part 2**: Who was the richest of them all? Find the dates of death for the Americans (using the article). Put a tally mark in the correct box. Look for when America created the wealthiest people. <http://www.nber.org/chapters/c2486.pdf>

**Part 2 Continued**:

1. Was big business even bigger in the 1800s than it is today? Give 2 reasons for your answer.

**Part 3**: Compare wages of the business owners to their employees. Use page 15 of the document to fill in chart with amount the worker made per month. <https://www.celebritynetworth.com/articles/entertainment-articles/30-richest-americans-time-inflation-adjusted/>

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Male | 1870 | 1880 | 1889 | 1899 |
| Farm Labor |  |  |  |  |
| Non Farm Labor |  |  |  |  |
| Carpenter |  |  |  |  |
| Cotton worker |  |  |  |  |
| Wool worker |  |  |  |  |
| Shoe worker |  |  |  |  |
| Iron worker |  |  |  |  |
| **Female** | X | X | X | X |
| Cotton worker |  |  |  |  |
| Wool worker |  |  |  |  |

1. Compare male and female wages.
2. Compare wages of the average worker to that of the business owner.
3. Do you think that kind of a wage gap (difference) is fair? Explain.

**Part 4**: **Decide**: Were business owners in the 1800s captains of industry or robber barons? **Evidence**: Decide on your top two pieces of evidence for your above answer.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **List** your answer | **Describe** your answer | **Explain** why this proves that they are a robber baron or captain of industry |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**Thesis**: