

Name _____



Industry Titans

Directions: Read the short profiles below of two major figures from the Industrial Revolution. Then, summarize each person's **achievements** and **controversies** in your own words. Finally, answer the reflection question at the end.

1. **Andrew Carnegie** was a Scottish immigrant who rose from humble beginnings to become one of the wealthiest men in America. He built his fortune in the steel industry, creating an empire that helped fuel the nation's bridges, railroads, and skyscrapers. Carnegie believed in the "Gospel of Wealth," encouraging the rich to use their money to benefit society. However, he faced criticism for harsh labor conditions in his steel plants and for breaking strikes, such as the Homestead Strike of 1892.

2. **John D. Rockefeller** founded the Standard Oil Company and became one of the most powerful businessmen in American history. His company used strategies like lowering prices and buying out competitors to dominate the oil market. Many saw him as a business genius who modernized industry and gave generously to education and science. Others accused him of forming monopolies and crushing competition, leading to the creation of antitrust laws to limit such power.

Reflection Question: Do you think industrial leaders like Carnegie and Rockefeller did more to **help** or **harm** society during the Industrial Revolution? Support your answer with at least two examples.
