

READING CHECK

What was New Nationalism?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *dominating* mean in the underlined sentence? What clues can you find in the surrounding words, phrases, or sentences? Circle the words in the underlined sentence that could help you learn what *dominating* means.

READING SKILL

Identify Main Ideas How were the Square Deal and the New Nationalism programs similar?

Theodore Roosevelt was a war hero, seasoned politician, and a dedicated reformer when he became President in 1901. He quickly pushed Congress to approve the Square Deal, a program of reform aimed at stopping the wealthy and powerful from dominating small business owners and the poor. Roosevelt used the power of the federal government to take on big business, breaking up trusts he considered abusive. In 1906, Roosevelt convinced Congress to pass the **Hepburn Act**, which limited what railroads could charge for shipping. This helped farmers in the West who had been at the mercy of the railroads.

After reading Upton Sinclair's novel *The Jungle*, Roosevelt pushed Congress to pass the **Meat Inspection Act**. This law gave the government power to inspect meat and meat-processing plants to ensure the meat was safe to eat. The **Pure Food and Drug Act** banned interstate shipment of impure food and the mislabeling of food and drugs.

Roosevelt loved nature, and he respected naturalist **John Muir**, whose efforts had led to the creation of Yosemite National Park. Following Muir's advice, Roosevelt put millions of acres of forests under federal control. However, he did not agree with Muir that it should all remain untouched. Like the head of the Division of Forestry, **Gifford Pinchot**, Roosevelt believed in the "rational use" of forests. The forests would be protected as future sources of lumber. To help settle fights over sources of water in the West, Roosevelt pushed for passage of the **National Reclamation Act**. That law gave the government power to build and manage dams and to control where and how water was used.

After two terms in office, Roosevelt wanted William Howard Taft to follow him because Taft shared his belief in regulating businesses. However, Taft did not follow the course Roosevelt had set, and Roosevelt became disappointed and, later, angry. He began to speak out against Taft, promoting what he called **New Nationalism**, a program to restore the government's trustbusting power. As another election neared, the Taft-Roosevelt battle split the Republican Party. A group of Progressives created the **Progressive Party** and nominated Roosevelt as its candidate for President.

Review Questions

1. How did the Meat Inspection Act protect consumers?

2. Why did President Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot want to protect forests?
