

US History

Progressive Politicians

Learning Target:

I can identify the method in which Teddy Roosevelt became president of the United States.

2. Teddy Roosevelt Becomes President

1900 Presidential Election –

The Candidates –

- Republicans – President McKinley (Theodore Roosevelt-running mate)
- Democrats – William Jennings Bryan

The Results –

- McKinley won the election easily due to prosperous economic times
- Teddy Roosevelt –
 - Had worked hard to reform government and big business as governor of NY
 - Many New York republicans disliked Roosevelt’s progressive ideas
 - Persuaded him to run as vice president to get rid of him which would backfire

Roosevelt Takes Office –

Assassination –

- Anarchist Leon Czolgosz assassinated McKinley; did it for the poor and forgotten
- Sept. 6, 1901; Pan-American exposition in Buffalo, NY
- Sept. 14, 1901 – McKinley dies and TR becomes president

The Modern President –

- Presidents had traditionally governed with a hands-off approach but not Roosevelt
- Used the office as a “bully pulpit” to influence the country through legislation
- Very bold and aggressive leadership style
- Believed the federal gov’t should step in when states proved incapable
- His progressive agenda became known as a “Square Deal”

1904 Presidential Election –

- Roosevelt easily won his reelection and no Republican challenged him for nomination