Robber Baron vs. Captain of Industry

You will learn about 3 industrialists of the 19th century who founded enormous businesses that had a profound effect on America. Everyone will learn about John D. Rockefeller, Sr., Andrew Carnegie, and Cornelius Vanderbilt. After following the links, fill in the chart “Robber Baron or Captain of Industry” for all of the men listed - **BE AS COMPREHENSIVE AND DETAILED AS POSSIBLE.**

**Robber Baron Defined:** An American capitalist of the latter part of the 19th century who became wealthy through exploitation (as of natural resources, governmental influence, or low wage scales) **or** a business owner or executive who acquires wealth through ethically questionable tactics.

**Captain of Industry Defined:** During the Industrial Revolution, a captain of industry was a business leader whose means of amassing a personal fortune contributes positively to the country in some way.

**Links for Introduction:**

**Read the quotes and introductory information on this page:**

**<http://edsitement.neh.gov/lesson-plan/industrial-age-america-robber-barons-and-captains-industry#sect-thelesson>**

**Click “Guiding Questions” on the left. Read the two questions and keep these in mind during the lesson.**

**Links for Rockefeller:**

Background on Rockefeller:**<http://www.history.com/topics/john-d-rockefeller>**

[**http://www.biography.com/people/john-d-rockefeller-20710159**](http://www.biography.com/people/john-d-rockefeller-20710159)

**Read the paragraph at the top and the bio below it.**

**Then click on the video clip** “[**John D. Rockefeller: Oil, Power and Money**](http://www.history.com/topics/john-d-rockefeller/videos#john-d-rockefeller-oil-money-and-power)”.

Robber Baron or Captain of Industry? **<http://www.ushistory.org/us/36b.asp>**

**Links for Carnegie:**

Background on Carnegie:**<http://www.history.com/topics/andrew-carnegie>**

**Read the paragraph at the top and the bio below it.**

**Then click on the video clip** “[**Andrew Carnegie**](https://www.history.com/topics/andrew-carnegie/videos/the-men-who-built-america-andrew-carnegie?m=528e394da93ae&s=undefined&f=1&free=false)”.

**Also watch the clip** “[**Andrew Carnegie and the Homestead**](https://www.history.com/topics/andrew-carnegie/videos/homestead-strike?m=528e394da93ae&s=undefined&f=1&free=false) Strike”.

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**<http://www.ushistory.org/us/36c.asp>**

[**http://www.americaslibrary.gov/aa/carnegie/aa\_carnegie\_phil\_1.html**](http://www.americaslibrary.gov/aa/carnegie/aa_carnegie_phil_1.html) (click through all 3 pages)

**Links for Vanderbilt:**

Background on Vanderbilt:**<http://www.history.com/topics/cornelius-vanderbilt>**

**Read the paragraph at the top and the bio below it.**

**<http://www.biography.com/people/cornelius-vanderbilt-9515195>**

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| **Characteristics of a Robber Baron** | **Characteristics of a Captain of Industry** |
| Cornelius Vanderbilt | |
|  |  |
| John D. Rockefeller | |
|  |  |
| Andrew Carnegie | |
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