

The Development of Labor Unions

Fill in the chart and answer the questions below. When you have finished, you should have a good overview of the goals, accomplishments, and problems of early labor unions.

	Knights of Labor	American Federation of Labor	Industrial Workers of the World
Founder Date			
Members			
Goals			
Successes			
Problems			

1. In spite of impressive gains for organized labor in the Gilded Age, unions enrolled no more than ten percent of the nonagricultural work force by 1910. How do each of the following factors help to account for the relatively small union membership at that time?

a. Belief in individual opportunity

b. Immigrants' distrust of unions

Name _____
Date _____

c. Actions of governors and U.S. presidents in strikes

d. Actions of federal courts in strikes

2. Write a one-sentence summary explaining why these early labor unions failed, for the most part, to accomplish their goals.