

Name _____

Skill: Reading Comprehension

Read the story and answer the questions.

Theodore Roosevelt: The Trust Buster

Theodore Roosevelt was the twenty-sixth President of the United States. He was an active reformer. One of his reforms dealt with preventing companies from forming trusts. A trust was created when businesses joined together to form large monopolies. Roosevelt was not against big business, but he wanted the government to have the power to make sure that big businesses acted fairly. He realized that the number of trusts were rapidly increasing. The problem with a trust was that they would put pressure on smaller businesses to either join the trust or face the possibility of going out of business. Sometimes the trusts would also agree to raise prices on their goods. Consumers, in turn, would have to pay more for these companies' products.

During Roosevelt's presidency, the government began to file suit against these large trusts, charging that a trust's goal was to force smaller companies out of business and reduce competition. For this reason, some people called him a "trust buster." Roosevelt claimed that he did not want to break apart trusts. He only wanted to ensure that they acted in a fair manner.

1. What is the main idea of this story? (Circle the answer.)
 - A. Roosevelt was a champion for small businesses.
 - B. Roosevelt was a champion for big businesses.
 - C. Roosevelt wanted businesses to operate in a fair manner.

2. What is a trust?

3. What did trusts do that Roosevelt did not approve of?

4. What was Roosevelt's intention in having the government sue the trusts?

5. Do you agree with Roosevelt's actions? Why or why not?

