

Name _____

William Howard Taft: A President of Many Hats

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. William Howard Taft grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio, in a family deeply involved in politics and law. His father was a prominent attorney, and this familial influence inspired Taft to pursue a career in law. His family's support and guidance played a significant role in shaping his path to becoming a lawyer and later a judge.
2. Taft's efforts in trust-busting and antitrust legislation were significant because they aimed to regulate powerful corporations and promote fair competition. This was achieved by breaking up monopolies and ensuring that businesses operated within the bounds of the law. These efforts were essential in maintaining a competitive economic environment and preventing the abuse of corporate power.
3. The 1912 election had a significant impact on Taft's political career. The competition from Theodore Roosevelt, who ran as a Progressive candidate, and Woodrow Wilson, who ultimately won, posed immense challenges. Taft's loss in this election marked the end of his presidency and had lasting effects on his political legacy.
4. William Howard Taft's legacy includes his role as a President who faced challenges within his own party, particularly tensions between progressives and conservatives. This internal division had a lasting impact on the Republican Party and contributed to shifts in the political landscape during his time. Taft's presidency is remembered for both his accomplishments and the challenges he navigated within his party.

