

Contextualization... CONSPICUOUS CONSUMPTION

Contextualization

Historical thinking involves the ability to **connect historical events and processes to specific circumstances of time and place.**

Directions: Using knowledge from the reading assignment as well as your unit review materials, review the historical significance of conspicuous **consumption**. Then, complete the contextualizations for the other terms related to this theme on the following pages. Write in complete sentences and include at least one specific piece of evidence in each answer.

Local Context

(Who, What, When, Where) A term first used in 1899, conspicuous consumption is the act or practice of spending money on expensive things that are not necessary in order to impress other people or to simply display the material wealth gained. In high society (upper socioeconomic class), it was a method of communicating power and influence as well. The mansions and property of men like John Rockefeller were seen as conspicuous.

Broad Context

Why, How *What is the "Big Picture?"* *What is the theme?*

Due to **technological** and **economic** expansion during the Gilded Age, cities grew substantially in both size and in number. The gap between rich and poor widened, as some segments of American society enjoyed lives of extravagant "conspicuous consumption," while many others, especially low-paid, unskilled workers lived in relative poverty in urban slums, often poorly ventilated tenements. This gap inspired settlement houses and other charities as well as increased public criticism of the era's "Robber Barons," labor movements, and calls for government action.

Comparative (Other) Context

Similar or Different in Kind From an Earlier or Later Time
(connect your BROAD context to another era /event)

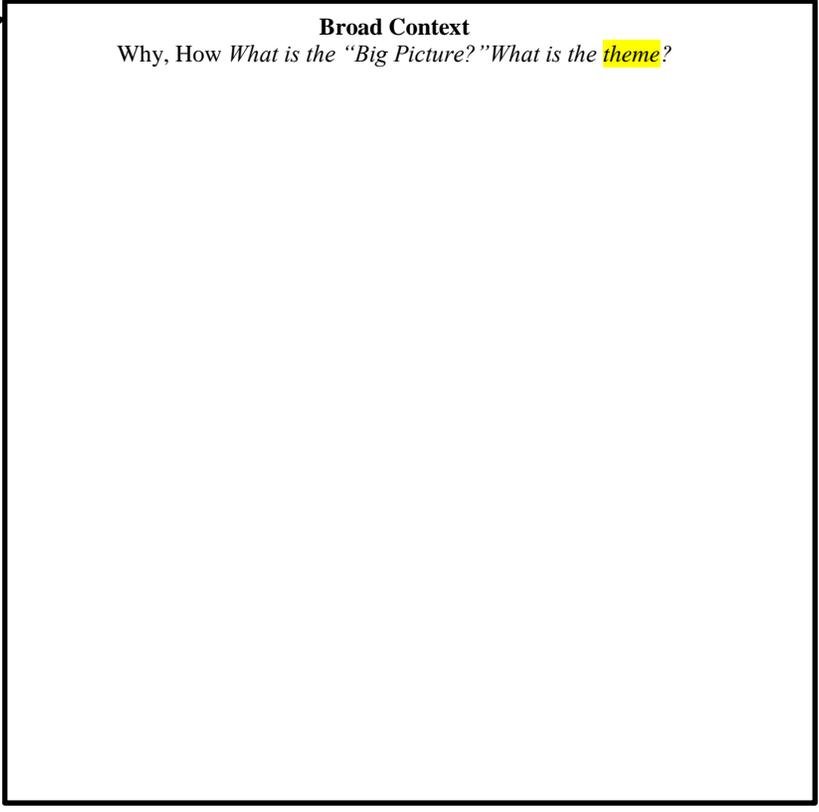
EXTENSION: Explain how these three items blend to characterize the Gilded Age.

Contextualization... SETTLEMENT HOUSE MOVEMENT

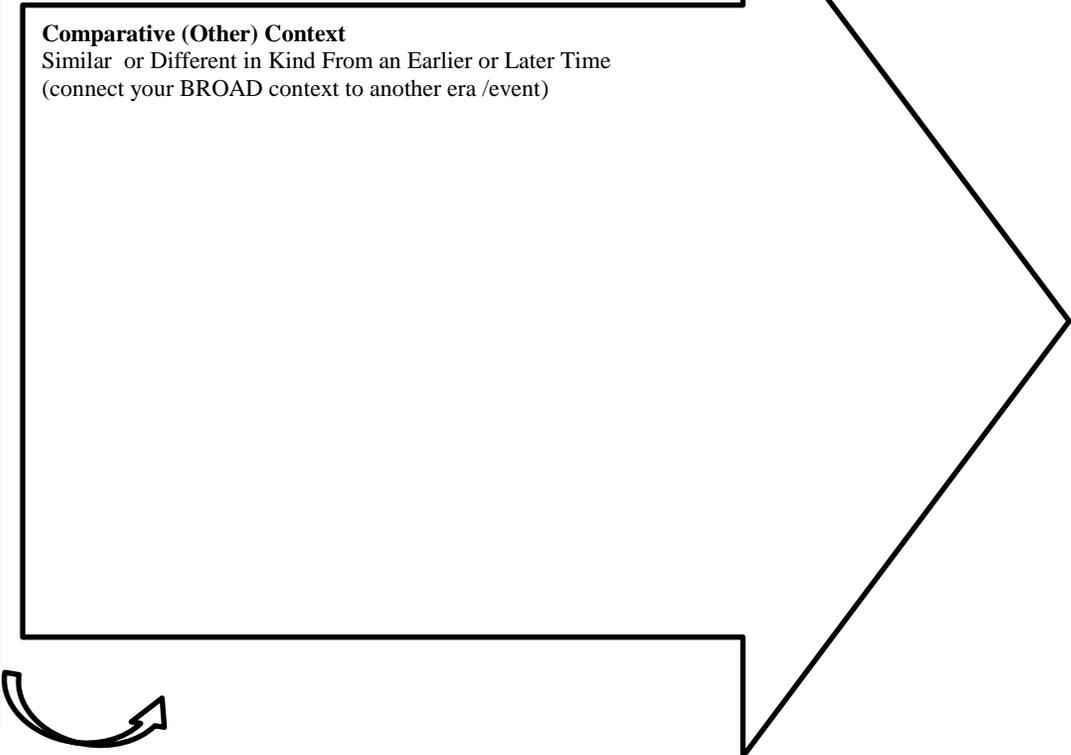
Local Context
(Who, What, When, Where)



Broad Context
Why, How *What is the "Big Picture?"* *What is the theme?*



Comparative (Other) Context
Similar or Different in Kind From an Earlier or Later Time
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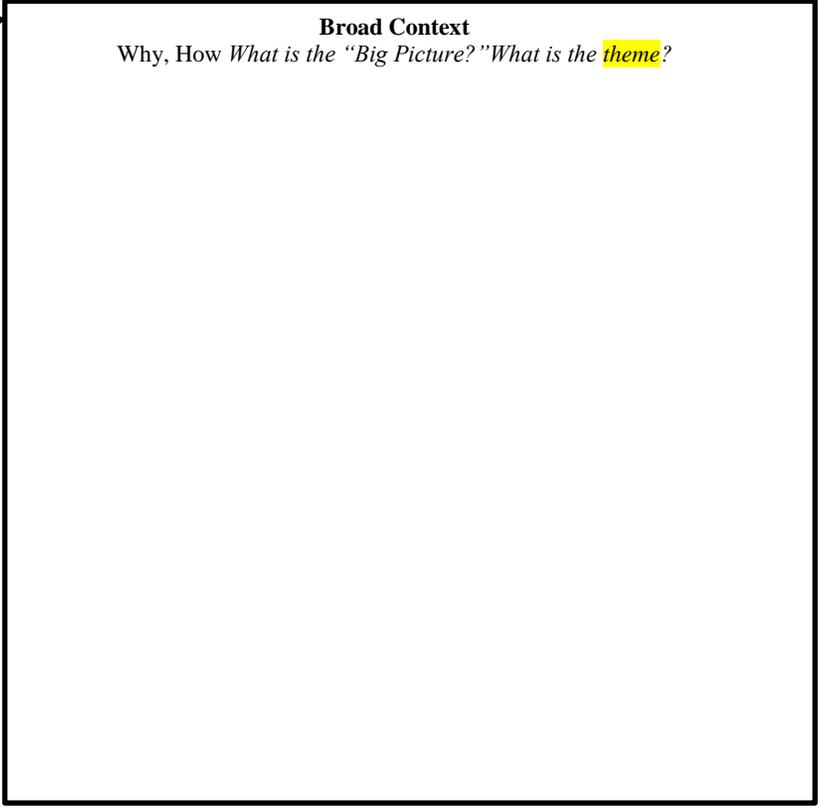


Contextualization... LAISSEZ FAIRE

Local Context
(Who, What, When, Where)



Broad Context
Why, How *What is the "Big Picture?"* *What is the theme?*



Comparative (Other) Context
Similar or Different in Kind From an Earlier or Later Time
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