**US History**

**Chapter 4 Lesson 4**

**Politics of the Gilded Age**

**Task 1: Define Vocabulary for Lesson 4 in the space provided below**

Civil Service

Patronage

The Grange

Populism

Greenbacks

Inflation

Graduated income tax

Deflation

Cooperatives

**Task 2: Read Chapter 4 Lesson 4 and respond to the following guided reading questions. You should answer on this paper.**

1. What was the “Spoils system?” Why did many Americans believe this system of patronage was bad for America?

2. What actions did Congress take to reform the civil service? Why were these steps necessary?

3. Make a diagram to describe the various kinds of problems farmers faced during the late 1800s.

4. Explain how the printing of greenbacks caused economic instability during and after the Civil War.

5. Why was deflation hard on farmers, but not inflation?

6. Describe the goals and tactics of the Grange and Farmers’ Alliance, and explain why each failed to bring about change for farmers throughout the US.

7. What were the goals of the People’s Party? (Their platform…)

8. Why did the Populists support the Democratic candidate, William Jennings Bryan, in 1896?

9. Analyze the following excerpt from William Jennings Bryan’s *Cross of Gold* speech (from the Democratic National Convention, 1896):

“Having behind us the producing masses of this nation and the world supported by the commercial interests, the laboring interests and the toilers everywhere, we will answer their demand for a gold standard by saying to them: You shall not press down upon the brow of labor this crown of thorns; you shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold.”

Is he FOR or AGAINST the gold standard? Why or why not?

10. Why did the Republicans win the election of 1896?