



**Draw a political cartoon showing a problem
in society.**

Ideas: corrupt politician, wealthy business
owner, struggling farmer, unfair treatment of
workers.

Challenge: No words allowed.

INVESTIGATE

Review: The West is Transformed

Railroads connected East & West.

Mining attracted settlers.

Ranching and farming expanded.

New groups moved west seeking opportunity.

Did everyone benefit from this growth?

1.3

Gilded Age Problems

As a Young Historian, I will be able to...

- **Analyze corruption in national politics.**
- **Discuss civil service reform**
- **Examine economic issues farmers faced**
- **Evaluate the impact of the Populist Party**

President Grant

Ulysses S. Grant was a civil war hero that easily took the office of President...

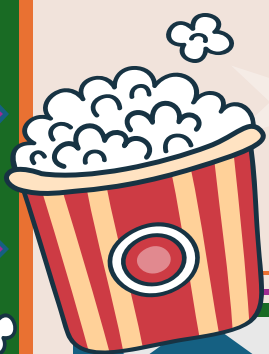
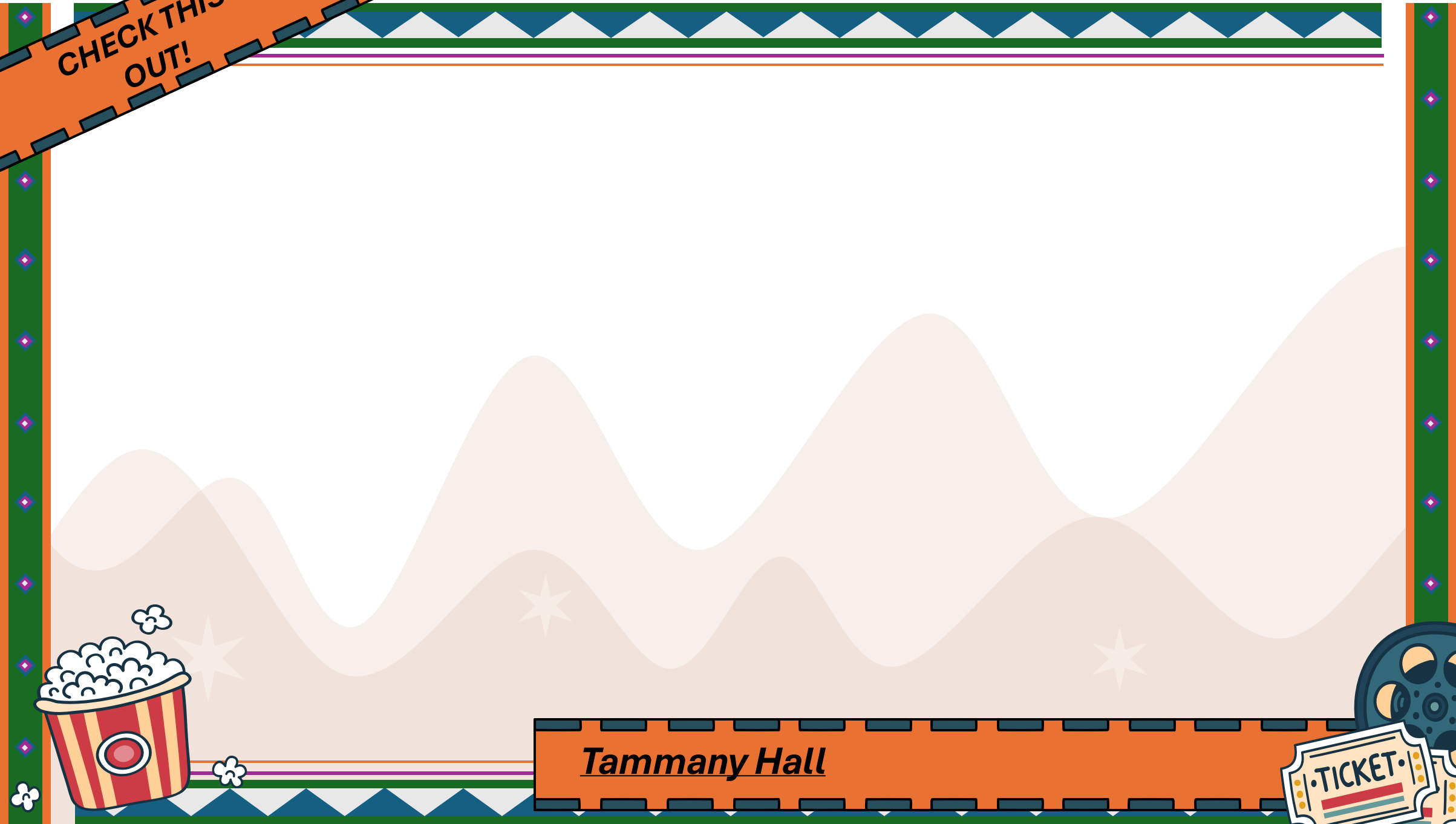
... but he often gave power to untrustworthy friends that used power for profit

Many republicans would split from the party to create the Liberal Republican Party

But soon the American public sensed corruption in politics

William “Boss” Tweed- Senator would would plunder millions of dollars from New York

CHECK THIS
OUT!



Tammany Hall



Political Machines

Spoil System- The idea were politicians awarded government jobs to loyal party workers

Political Machines- A political party organization that wins voter loyalty & guarantees power to a small group of leaders

Jobs & gifts were exchanged for political support

Political cartoons would help shed light on illegal & corrupt activities in the U.S.

IMOW: *Do We Still Have These Issues Today? Explain!*

Civil Service

System that includes federal jobs in the executive branch.

Many politicians would use this to try & reform the spoils system

Pendleton Civil Service Act- Created a Civil Service Commission that required an exam for a job to reduce the spoil system

Economic Problems

The Panic of 1873 caused financial hardship as jobs & banks failed. People looked to fix this.

Gold Standard- The government uses gold as the basis of nation's currency & created paper money

Fiat money- money not backed by gold or silver.
This is what we have now!

Americans began to debate how money should work

Growth of Political Machines and Corruption

Joseph Keppler's famous cartoon shows who he believed was really in charge of the government. Analyze Political Cartoons Why are the businessmen drawn so large compared to the senators?

Farmers Face Economic Difficulty

Life was difficult for prairie farmers, who faced the difficulties of nature as well as unpredictable prices and rising debts. Hypothesize Why were farmers willing to put up with the hardships that came with their way of living?

Farmers Face Difficulty

**Farmers lived a difficult life of economic issues,
crops sold low but transportation was high**

**Farmers would burn what they couldn't sell &
new tech would bankrupt farmers**

**Many believed that monopolies & the banks were taking
advantage of them.**

**Political views also turned away from farming in favor
of big business**

Farmers Unite

Oliver H. Kelley organized a movement called The **Grange** & sought to bring education on new farming techniques & gov regulation

This would lead to the creation of the **Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC)**

Farmers' Alliance- Farmers across the U.S. banded together to demand government regulation

They would take on big business & the railroads

IMOW: *Do Farmers Still Organize Today? Should They?*

Populism

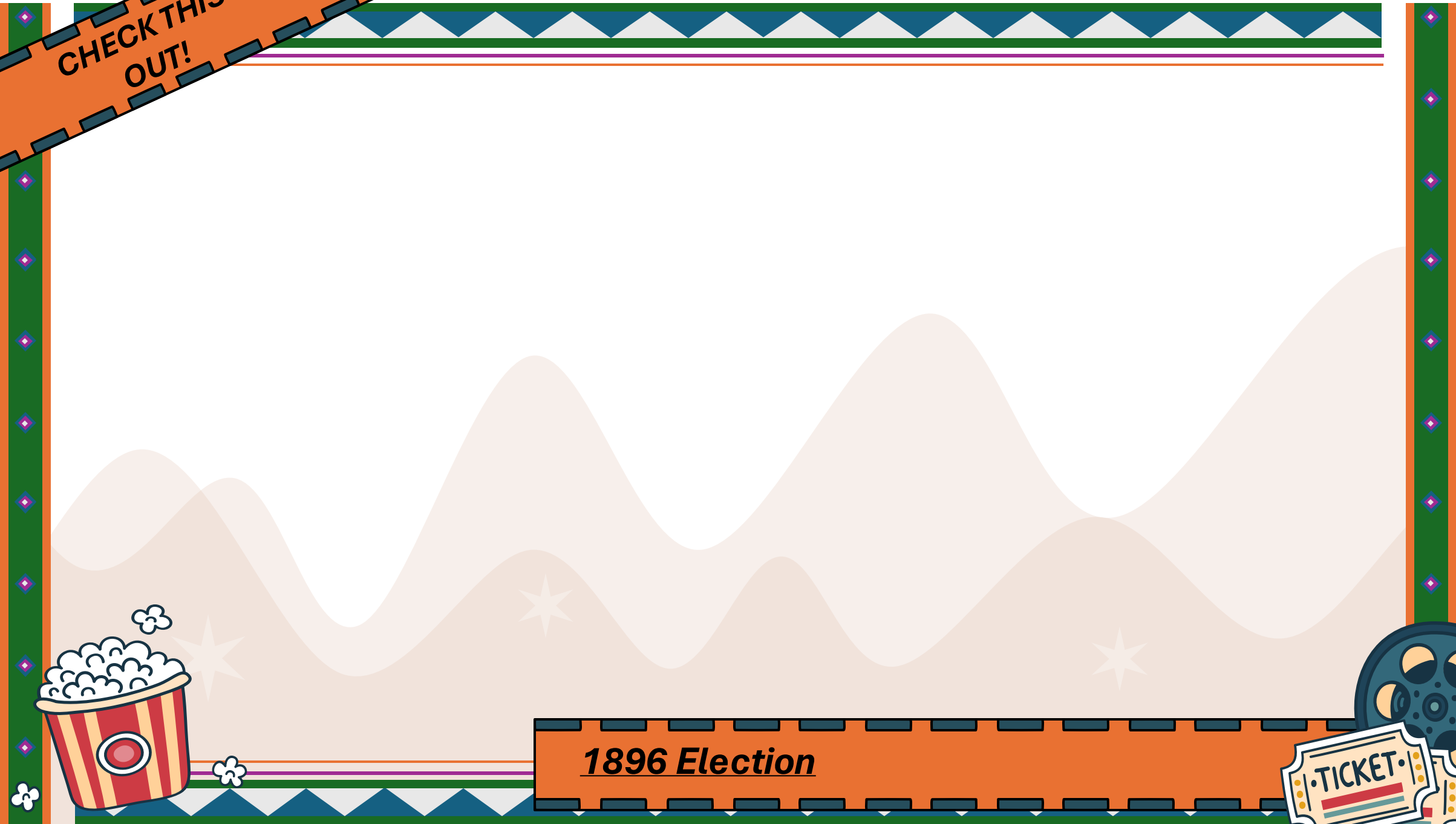
Populist Party- Political Party that was the
“people’s party”

Wanted to fight low wages, combat high costs, &
convince the working elite they need be
concerned with the industrial elite

The Party would be successful uniting much of the
country until the South began to use racist tactics

William Jennings Bryan – gifted orator who spoke to
the common man, would be the first
presidential nominee to tour the nation

CHECK THIS
OUT!



1896 Election

**IMOW: *Do Presidents Still Talk to the
Common Man?***

Populism's Declining Influence

In the presidential election of 1896, William Jennings Bryan won more states but fewer electoral votes than the victorious William McKinley.

Analyze Maps In which regions was Bryan the most popular?

