NAME DATE CLASS

# Biography Activity

## World War I and the Russian Revolution

### Vladimir Ilyich Lenin (1870–1924)

Vladimir Ilyich Lenin came from a middle-class home and was an excellent student. Despite his brother’s execution as a conspirator against the Russian government, Lenin was allowed to attend university. He became a lawyer, although revolutionary tendencies nearly stopped his practice.

As a lawyer, he mostly defended the poor. He hated the pervasive classism of the legal system. During this time, Lenin associated with Marxists and supported their opposition to capitalism. He joined an organization that taught the principles of Marxism to workers and supported workers’ strikes.

In 1917, Lenin’s work peaked with his leadership of the Bolshevik Revolution. The government Lenin created was plagued with opposition and civil war. However, because the working classes continued to support many of Lenin’s policies, the Bolsheviks triumphed.

**1. Determining Cause and Effect** What are three possible influences on Lenin’s work as a revolutionary?

**2. Analyzing Information** Why did the Bolsheviks triumph over anti-Communists?