NAME  DATE  CLASS

# Biography Activity

## World War I and the Russian Revolution

### Woodrow Wilson (1856–1924)

Woodrow Wilson was the first U.S. president to hold a Ph.D. He worked as a professor before serving as president from 1913 to 1921.

Reform marked Wilson’s presidency, which introduced laws to stop child labor, make loans to farmers, and protect railroad workers. Wilson also created major government economic agencies, including the Federal Reserve and the Federal Trade Commission.

Wilson did not want to join World War I, but German submarine warfare and the “Zimmermann Telegram” left him no choice. Even as a participant, he was a major negotiator of peace, and he won the 1919 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts. In October 1919, as he fought for U.S. acceptance of the Treaty of Versailles, Wilson had a massive stroke that compromised his effectiveness as president.

**1. Summarizing** Based on the description of his presidency and involvement in the war, how could you summarize Wilson’s character?

**2. Understanding Relationships Among Events** Why did Wilson sacrifice his policy of neutrality to enter World War I?