

Class Starters & Enders

Making the Most of Instructional Time Five Minute Lessons

Class Starters and Enders help utilize the last minutes of class when a lesson ends but there is not enough time to start another, or for an interest approach at the beginning of class. Mini-lessons correlate to GPS in the programs areas below.

Michael Hoke Smith, 1855-1931

Program Areas: Agriculture, Law & Justice

Instructions: Read the narrative and make notes of important points, answer questions, and be ready to discuss this topic.

Michael Hoke Smith was born in Newton, North Carolina, on September 2, 1855. He moved to Georgia with his parents in 1872. He did not receive a traditional education but was educated primarily by his father who was a professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Smith passed the bar examination for law in 1873 and became a well-known attorney in Atlanta.

Smith found he had a passion for being in front of a jury and applied his trade well. He served on many boards including the Atlanta Board of Education, Fulton County Chairman, and the State Democratic Party. He was also owner of The Atlanta Journal newspaper, and in 1892 garnered such strong support for Grover Cleveland in the presidential election that President Cleveland appointed him to Secretary of the Interior. During his time as Secretary of the Interior, Smith worked hard on issues such as the railroad's unfair land practices, Indian affairs, and economic development in the South.

In 1896, amid a change in the Democratic Party, Smith resigned his position and returned to Atlanta to resume his practice. In 1900, Smith sold the Journal and with the help of the Democratic Party became the governor of Georgia in 1907. He lost his bid for reelection in 1909 but was again elected governor in 1911. While still in the governor's office in 1911, he was approached to become a U.S. Senator to fill the position vacated after a death. He accepted the nomination and was re-elected to his senate seat in 1914.



Michael Hoke Smith

Laws by M. Hoke Smith:

- * 1914- Smith-Lever Act
This act established the Cooperative Extension Service

- * 1917-Smith-Hughes Act
This act helped to establish vocational training in secondary schools

History Connection- Briefly define the following.

Smith-Lever Act

Smith-Hughes Act

Review

1. What year was Smith elected to the U.S. Congress?
2. Who is the Smith of the Smith-Lever Act?
3. Where was Smith born?
4. What profession did Smith have before politics?
5. What was Smith best known for?
6. What do the buildings bearing his name house at the University of Georgia?