The Fat Cat Industrialists of Past and Present

Use SIDE 1 of yellow sheet.  

Source: Star Tribune (1998)

1. Who was the richest American of all time? ________________________________
   a. What was the value of his wealth in his day? $_______
   c. Equivalent value today = $________
   d. Approximately how many times wealthier was he than the richest living American today ______?

2. Who is the richest living American? ________________________________
   a. Where does he rank among the “richest ever?” ________
   b. In what industry did he gain wealth & power? ___________________________

3. Who is the richest Minnesotan of all time? ______________________________
   a. Where does he rank among the “richest ever?” ________
   b. In what industry did he gain wealth & power? ___________________________

4. In what industries did each of the following gain wealth & power?
   a. John D. Rockefeller: __________________________
   b. Andrew Carnegie: __________________________
   c. John Pierpont Morgan: ______________________
   d. James J. Hill: _____________________________
   e. Cornelius Vanderbilt: _________________________

5. The Industrial Age spans from 1860-1910 in our nation’s history. Approximately how many of the 40 richest Americans of all time likely made their fortunes during this period?

   5   10   20   25   more than 25

   What does this tell you about opportunity & wealth at this time? ________________
   _______________________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________________

Use SIDE 2 of yellow sheet.  

Source: Star Tribune (one year later: 1999)

1. How much did Bill Gate’s wealth increase in one year (from side 1 to side 2) ? $_______ billion

2. Examine the list of the 5 richest living Americans under the Bill Gates photo. Which one of the 7 factors discussed in class most closely relates to their success? ______________________________