



THE 1920s

Unit 12 Review Guide

1: BUSINESS & GOVERNMENT

The 1920s was a time when the economy was good for most people and having the latest thing was important.

2: POPULAR CULTURE

Radio, phonographs and movies made it possible for everyone in America to share the same ideas for the first time.

3: THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE

The 1920s marked a time when African Americans were moving and changing their ideas about themselves and their place in American society.

4: CULTURAL CONFLICTS

The 1920s was a time when there were major conflicts between Americans about what was right and wrong.



Watch Mr. Loomis's Review Video:
https://youtu.be/rZRrv_j8U8o



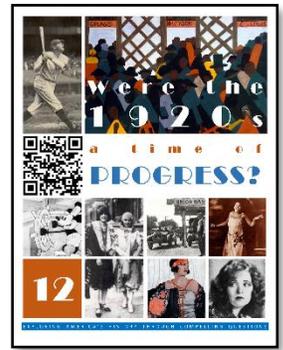
Study the Vocabulary on Quizlet:
https://quizlet.com/_6bwcb4



Read the Online Textbook:
www.inquiryhistory.com/unit12



12-1: BUSINESS & GOVERNMENT



BIG IDEA: The 1920s was a time when the economy was good for most people and having the latest thing was important.

During the 1920s, three Republican presidents pursued laissez-faire policies by reducing taxes and regulation. The result was an increase in business activity. Higher wages led to higher spending and people remember the decade as a time of wealth and plenty.

The administration of President Harding however was plagued by scandal, including the Teapot Dome Scandal.

The 1920s were the first decade in which many Americans were able to own automobiles, especially due to innovations in production implemented by Henry Ford. Cars had the effect of changing America. Gas stations, paved roads, motels, and kissing in cars were all things that were new because of the availability of the automobile.



Airplanes were new in the 1920s. Most famously, Charles Lindbergh became the first person to fly non-stop from New York to Paris, becoming a great hero in the United States.

America became a consumer culture. Having the latest thing became an important part of life, especially new electronic inventions

such as refrigerators and vacuum cleaners.

When they were unable to buy such things, Americans borrowed money. Being in debt became common.

This was a time when average Americans began buying stocks in the stock market. Some made the risky choice of borrowing money to buy stocks. However, since business was good during most of the decade, even investors who borrowed usually made money in the end.

Not all Americans believed this new emphasis on having things and making money was a good idea. A group of writers known as the Lost Generation felt that Americans had lost their sense of what was good and true and wrote novels focused on these themes.

TECHNOLOGY

- Assembly Line
- Model T
- Electric Refrigerator
- Washing Machine
- Iron
- Supermarket
- Spirit of St. Louis
- Vacuum Cleaner

VOCABULARY



IDEAS

- Laissez-Faire
- Return to Normalcy
- The Business of America is Business



PEOPLE & GROUPS

- Warren G. Harding
- Ohio Gang
- Calvin Coolidge
- Henry Ford
- Barnstormer
- Charles Lindbergh
- Lost Generation
- Ernest Hemingway
- Gertrude Stein
- F. Scott Fitzgerald
- T.S. Eliot
- Sinclair Lewis



EVENTS

- Teapot Dome Scandal



LITERATURE

- The Great Gatsby
- The Waste Land
- Main Street



LAWS

- Federal Highway Act of 1921



ECONOMIC CONCEPTS

- Line of Credit
- Installment Plan
- Buying on Margin



12-2: POPULAR CULTURE

BIG IDEA: Radio, phonographs and movies made it possible for everyone in America to share the same ideas for the first time.

During the 1920s, as more and more Americans had electricity in their homes and could afford radio sets, radio became an important form of entertainment. For the first time, Americans could all listen to the same radio shows, or listen to live sports broadcasts.

Baseball, football, swimming, tennis, and boxing were popular sports.

Fads such as flagpole sitting, dance marathons, and beauty pageants became popular across the nation.

Hollywood and the movie industry were born in the 1920s. The first movies had no sound, but eventually “talkies” were invented. Just like today, movie stars were fashion idols. The first cartoons also were born in the 1920s, including Walt Disney’s Mickey Mouse.



Jazz was a new American form of music that became popular in the 1920s. Based on old African-American musical traditions, Jazz became popular in the North and among White audiences.

Some middle-class and upper-class young women rejected traditional gender roles and the fashion sense of their mothers and embraced a new style. These flappers went out without chaperones, smoked, drank,

danced, and dressed in shocking new ways (at least shocking for the 1920s).

The idea of the teenager was born in the 1920s. High schools added sports, extracurricular activities, and many young Americans waited longer to get married or start working.

New forms of art became popular in the 1920s. Art deco used bold colors, repeated patterns, and geometric shapes. Both artists and architects used this new style. Alternatively, some artists embraced surrealism, which included the painting of fantastic, dream-like images.

VOCABULARY



IDEAS

- Dance Marathon
- Miss America Pageant
- Flagpole Sitting
- Charleston
- Consolidated High School
- School Athletics
- Extracurricular Activities



PEOPLE & GROUPS

- Guglielmo Marconi
- Jim Thorpe
- Gertrude Ederle
- Helen Wills
- “Big Bill” Tilden
- Harold “Red” Grange
- Babe Ruth
- Rudolph Valentino
- Clara Bow
- Charlie Chaplin
- D. W. Griffith
- Walt Disney
- Duke Ellington
- Louis Armstrong
- Jelly Roll Morton
- Bessie Smith
- Ella Fitzgerald
- Billie Holiday
- Flappers
- Sigmund Freud
- Le Corbusier
- Salvador Dali



BUSINESSES

- Radio Corporation of America (RCA)
- National Broadcasting Company (NBC)



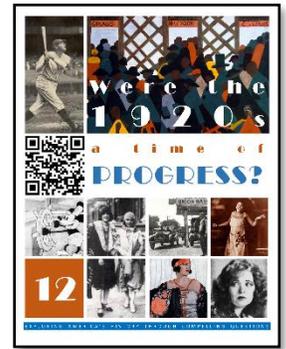
THE ARTS

- The Jazz Singer
- Steamboat Willie
- Jazz
- Art Deco
- Surrealism



TECHNOLOGY

- Silent Movie
- Talkie



12-3: THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE

BIG IDEA: The 1920s marked a time when African-Americans were moving and changing their ideas about themselves and their place in American society.

After the end of Reconstruction, White leaders in the South established the Jim Crow system of segregation, which recreated the social order of the pre-Civil War Era with African Americans stuck firmly at the bottom.

The most prominent African American leader in the late 1800s was Booker T. Washington. He ran the Tuskegee Institute and argued that African Americans should find ways to become educated so that they could be productive members of society. He did not emphasize fighting for equality or equal rights.

In 1905, a group of African Americans formed the Niagara Movement. They wanted equal rights and founded the NAACP to fight for equality in the courts. Their leader was W. E. B. Du Bois, who offered a contrast to Booker T. Washington.

During WWI, thousands of African Americans moved out of the South to find jobs in factories in the North. This movement of people is called the Great Migration. They mostly settled in urban centers such as New York City, Chicago or Detroit. Although they did find higher paying jobs, they also found that segregation still existed in the North in the form of limits on where they could live and what jobs they could have.

A large number of the most creative and important leaders of the African American community settled in the Harlem neighborhood of New York City during the 1920s. They made music, wrote poetry and novels, danced, created artwork, and advocated for new political rights. This period of intense racial pride and activism was the Harlem Renaissance.



VOCABULARY



IDEAS

Atlanta Compromise
Niagara Movement
Talented Tenth
Redlining
New Negro
Back to Africa



PEOPLE & GROUPS

Booker T. Washington
W. E. B. Du Bois
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
Claude McKay
Zora Neale Hurston
James Weldon Johnson
Alain Locke
Langston Hughes
Marcus Garvey
Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA)
Madam C. J. Walker



EVENTS

Great Migration
Harlem Renaissance



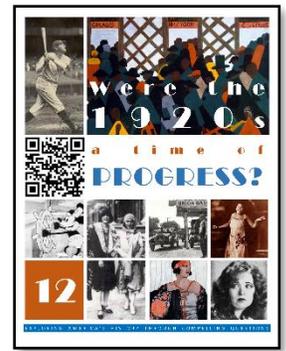
LOCATIONS

Tuskegee Institute
Harlem



LAWS & COURT CASES

Jim Crow
Plessy v. Ferguson
Declaration of Principles



12-4: CULTURAL CONFLICTS

BIG IDEA: The 1920s was a time when there were major conflicts between Americans about what was right and wrong.

Fueled partly by the popularity of a movie celebrating the Ku Klux Klan in the immediate aftermath of the Civil War, the KKK became popular and quite common in the 1920s. They targeted their hatred on African Americans, immigrants, Catholics and Jews. Although the Klan's leaders promised to be non-violent, in reality the members of the Klan carried out numerous lynching and other forms of terrorism.

The 1920s saw the rise of Christian Fundamentalists who reacted to new inventions and excitement about science by teaching that truth can be found in the Bible. Most importantly, they focused on preventing Darwin's Theory of Evolution from being taught in public schools because it conflicted with the Biblical story of creation.

Although some Americans wanted their children to learn the Bible's version of creation in public school, others did not like it that Christian teachings were being enacted into law. In

1925, a great court case showed off the conflict between these modernists and traditionalists. In Tennessee, the Butler Act had made it illegal to teach any version of creation other than the story found in the Bible. When John Scopes taught Darwin's theory he was arrested.

Great lawyers came to try the case, and although Scopes lost (it was obvious he had broken the law), the nation watched with great interest as the Bible itself seemed to be on trial.

Other leaders tapped into a growing interest in traditional religion. Billy Sunday and Aimee Semple McPherson both built large followings as they toured the nation speaking to large audiences.

The 1920s are also remembered as the era of Prohibition. Beginning in 1919, alcohol was illegal in the United States. Preventing people from making, selling, buying and drinking alcohol was incredibly difficult. Although Prohibition was supposed to reduce crime, crime actually became more common as gangs fought each other over control of the making and distribution of illegal alcohol. Most famous of these was Al Capone's gang in Chicago. Police forces, who were supposed to enforce the laws, often were paid by bar owners to look the other way, or simply ignored the law since they wanted to drink also. Finally, after 14 years, the 21st Amendment made alcohol legal again.

VOCABULARY



IDEAS

Lynching
Theory of Evolution



PEOPLE & GROUPS

Ku Klux Klan (KKK)
Anti-Defamation League
Modernists
Traditionalists
Charles Darwin
Fundamentalists
American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
John Scopes
William Jennings Bryan
Clarence Darrow
Billy Sunday
Aimee McPherson
Dries
Wets
Al Capone



MOVIES

The Birth of a Nation



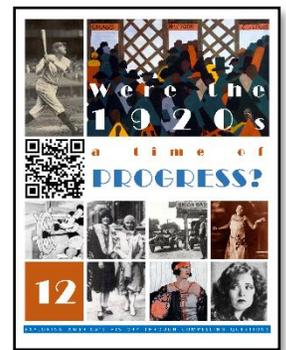
LOCATIONS

Speakeasy



LAWS & COURT CASES

Butler Act
Scopes "Monkey" Trial
18th Amendment
Volstead Act
21st Amendment



ESSENTIAL VOCABULARY



KEY CONCEPTS

Laissez-Faire: A government policy of low regulation and low taxation in order to spur business.

Return to Normalcy: President Harding's campaign slogan. It tapped into Americans' desire to move beyond the heartache of World War I.

Line of Credit: A set amount of money a store or bank was willing to loan a customer in order to make purchases.

Installment Plan: A plan for paying back a loan for a purchase a small amount at a time over the course of a set time.

Buying on Margin: Purchasing stock with borrowed money in the hope that the stock will gain in value and the borrower will make money after paying back the loan.

Jim Crow: The nickname for a system of laws that enforced segregation. For example, African Americans had separate schools, rode in the backs of busses, could not drink from White drinking fountains, and could not eat in restaurants or stay in hotels, etc.

Atlanta Compromise: Belief that the best way for African Americans to advance their position in society was to learn useful skills rather than agitate for equality and justice. It was promoted by Booker T. Washington in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The name derives from a speech.

Redlining: Unofficial segregation in northern cities that occurred after the Great Migration in which realtors and banks refused to sell homes in certain neighborhoods to African American buyers.

New Negro: Idea that African Americans should assert themselves as members of American society, with literature, art, music and civil rights equal to all other people. It was popularized in the 1920s as part of the Harlem Renaissance and Niagara Movement. It was championed by W. E. B. Du Bois and contradicted Booker T. Washington's Albany Compromise.

Lynching: Illegal hanging by a mob. It is a term most commonly used when White mobs hung African American men and was common throughout the South during the Jim Crow era.



DOCUMENTS

Declaration of Principles: Statement published at the meeting of African American leaders in Niagara in 1905 calling for political, economic and social equality.

The Crisis: Journal published by W. E. B. Du Bois to promote the causes of African Americans.



PEOPLE AND GROUPS

Ohio Gang: A group of President Harding's advisors. Their corruption causes the president a great deal of political trouble.

Calvin Coolidge: Republican president in the 1920s. He became president after the death of Harding and advocated pro-business policies.

Henry Ford: Entrepreneur who founded an automobile company and pioneered the use of the assembly line and famously paid his workers \$5 per day.

Charles Lindbergh: American pilot who was the first person to fly across the Atlantic Ocean non-stop. He became a national hero.

The Lost Generation: Group of American authors who wrote about disenchantment with consumerism and waste during the 1920s. They included Hemingway, Stein, and Fitzgerald.

Booker T. Washington: African American educator in the late 1800s and early 1900s who led the Tuskegee Institute and argued that the best way for African Americans to advance their position in society was to learn useful skills rather than agitate for equality and justice. This was the Atlanta Compromise.

W. E. B. Du Bois: African American author, political leader and intellectual who led the Niagara Movement and published *The Crisis*. He believed that African Americans should reject the Atlanta Compromise and fight for equality and justice.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP): Organization dedicated to promoting African American rights through the justice system. It was established in 1909 as part of the Niagara Movement.

Marcus Garvey: Jamaican-born entrepreneur and leader during the 1920s who led the Universal Negro Improvement Association.

United Negro Improvement Association (UNIA): Organization founded by Marcus Garvey that encourage cooperation among all African people and people of African descent in the world. They also supported the independence movement in Jamaica.

Ku Klux Klan (KKK): Racist organization based in the South that terrorized African Americans after the Civil War and helped establish the system of Jim Crow. They were also anti-immigrant, anti-Catholic and anti-Semitic. The organization experienced a revival in the 1920s and again during the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s.

Modernists: People who embrace science and changes as positive influences on society. In the 1920s they were concentrated in cities.

Traditionalists: People who rejected changes and embraced traditional values, especially Christianity instead of science. In the 1920s they were concentrated in rural areas and the South.

Fundamentalists: People who embraced the Bible and traditional Christian teachings and rejected scientific theories that contradict the Bible. Rural areas and the Bible Belt in the South are the heart of this thinking.

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU): Organization that provides lawyers to defend people they believe have had their basic rights violated. For example, they defend freedom of speech cases and in the 1920s, helped defend John Scopes.

William Jennings Bryan: Former populist and democratic presidential candidate who became the primary champion of traditionalist and fundamentalists in the 1920s. He promoted laws such as the Butler Act and led the prosecution at the Scopes Trial.

Clarence Darrow: Famous attorney in the 1920s who rejected traditionalism as an encroachment on individual freedom of belief and led the defense of John Scopes.

Bootleggers: People who imported illegal alcohol during prohibition.

Al Capone: Nicknamed "Scarface," he was the most famous gangster during the era of prohibition. He ran the illegal alcohol operation in Chicago and although was renowned for violence, eventually went to jail for tax evasion.



EVENTS

Teapot Dome Scandal: Political scandal that hurt President Harding. It stemmed from the illegal sale of naval oil reserves.

Niagara Movement: Movement in the African American community led by W. E. B. Du Bois to advocate for equality and racial justice. The NAACP was founded as part of this movement.

Great Migration: Movement of nearly two million African Americans out of the South to cities of the North in the 19-teens, largely to escape segregation and take advantage of job opportunities during World War I.



TECHNOLOGY

Assembly Line: A system of production in which each worker performs one step and the product moves past the workers, beginning at one end of the factory as parts, and exiting the other end as a finished product.

Model T: Famous automobile built by Henry Ford. It was relatively inexpensive and always black.

Silent Movies: The first form of movies that did not have sound. They were accompanied by live musicians playing music in the theater.

Talkie: Nickname for the first movies with sound.



THE ARTS

Jazz: Musical style created around 1900. It grew out of West African influences, ragtime, slave songs, and European classical influences. First created in New Orleans, it was popularized in the rest of the country during the 1920s. It often features syncopated rhythms and improvisation.

Art Deco: Artistic style popularized in the 1920s and 1930s featuring geometric shapes, repetition, and solid colors.

Surrealism: Art style popular in the 1920s. It features dreamlike images rather than realistic representations. The most famous painter of this style was Salvador Dali.



LAWS

Butler Act: Law passed in the 1920s in Tennessee that banned the teaching of Darwin's Theory of Evolution. John Scopes was charged with violating this law.

18th Amendment: Amendment to the constitution that outlawed alcohol and established prohibition.

Volstead Act: 1919 law that implemented the 18th Amendment and made alcohol illegal, thus initiating prohibition.

21st Amendment: Amendment to the Constitution ratified in 1933 that ended prohibition by repealing the 18th Amendment.



COURT CASES

Plessy v. Ferguson: 1896 Supreme Court case in which the court declared that racially segregated schools and other public facilities were constitutional establishing the "separate but equal" doctrine. It was overturned in the Brown v. Board of Education case in 1954.

Scopes "Monkey" Trial: Trial of biology teacher John Scopes in 1925 that became a visible symbol of the conflict between modernists and traditionalists.