

Smithsonian: America in Color, The 1920s Media Guide



1. What was the effect of the end of wartime production at the conclusion of WWI?
2. What promise did Warren G. Harding make as he took office in 1921, and what did he mean by it?
3. How did Henry Ford revolutionize the automobile industry?
4. What was the "Tin Lizzie," and what was its impact on the US?
5. What did Prohibition ban?
6. How did Prohibition contribute to organized crime?
7. How did Al Capone build his fortune and power?
8. What right did women secure in 1920?
9. What was the name given to newly liberated women of America's cities?
10. What characterizes a flapper?
11. What group in the rural south gained power in the 1920s as it resisted the change of the 1920s?
12. Who famously said "the chief business of the American people is business" in regard to the growing economic productivity and consumerism of the 1920s?
13. What did the work songs of the Jim Crow south resemble?
14. What were conditions of life like for those that lived and worked in the Jim Crow South?
15. How did the suburb of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Greenwood, contrast other black communities around the US?



16. What happened in May 1921 to Greenwood?
17. Aside from Black Americans, which other groups in American society were targeted by the KKK?
18. What was the Great Migration of the WWI years?
19. How did the Great Migration transform the culture of northern cities?
20. New technology resulted in labor saving devices freed up many hours of an American mother's day. What were three of these new advents?
21. What new technology united the US into a mass culture as it cuts across geographic barriers?
22. What innovation by Wheaties demonstrated the impact of the radio towards perpetuating consumerism?
23. What sport became America's pastime as it was broadcast over the radio?
24. What was the second most popular sport in America that demonstrated the importance of leisure time to the working class in the early decades of the 20th century?
25. The University of Miami named their mascot after what historic natural disaster in 1926?
26. What was the famous accomplishment of Charles Lindbergh, also known as Lucky Lindy?
27. What was the name of his plane?
28. What was the first man-made structure to breach 1000 feet?
29. What were the workers who completed the dangerous work of building skyscrapers called?
30. How were 80% of consumer goods purchased during the 1920s?
31. When the Great Mississippi Flood happened, levees failed and flooded the homes of more than 700,000 Americans; why would President Calvin Coolidge refuse to commit federal money to help?
32. What did buying on margin mean?
33. Investors speculating on stocks in the stock market based their decisions on what rather than the strength of the companies?
34. How did the collapse of the stock market contribute to bank failures?
35. When the Empire State Building opened in 1931, how long did it take to turn a profit?

Continue to the reverse for additional illustrative examples we should know about the...

CULTURE OF THE ROARING 1920S

18th Amendment



What did the 18th Amendment do?

What is Prohibition?

Why is Prohibition called the Noble Experiment?

Why did people oppose the 18th Amendment?

How did the 18th Amendment contribute to crime?

19th Amendment



What did the 19th Amendment do?

When did the fight for women's suffrage begin?

How did the fight of the "new women" of the 1910s depart from the tradition of the Seneca Falls Conference?

The years around the turn of the century brought many new liberties for women. Bicycles were liberating for women, because they required styles of dress that allowed for more movement. This means women began to wear split skirts or even bloomers! Young men and women riding bikes together without a chaperone violated traditional rules of courtship. (Never mind that a young lady must ride a bicycle alone and may choose her own destination!)



What are some notable differences between the above images?

What advent created even further social mobility for women of the 1920s?!

How do the following factors affect women during the years around the passage of the 19th Amendment?

- o Dropping birthrate
- o Labor saving devices in the home
- o Children at school during the day
- o Higher divorce rates
- o Child labor laws –teens are not working

Traditionalism vs. Modernism

"When Shall We Three Meet Again?"



What was the Scopes Trial of the 1920s?

Why is it also called the Monkey Trial?

What is fundamentalism?

What did it illustrate about the tension between traditionalism and modernism during the 1920s?

Aside from the Scopes Trial, what are two examples of emerging intolerance during the 1920s?

The Movies

The Talkie & the Tramp:



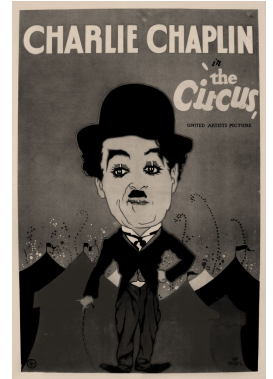
Charlie Chaplin Stays Silent in the Machine Age

Who invented the motion picture camera that allowed for the production of movies in the 1920s?

Why did many Americans flock to movie theaters in the 1920s?

What was unique about the first movies that starred people like Charlie Chaplin?

Why was "The Jazz Singer" such an important movie in the history of film?



Jazz



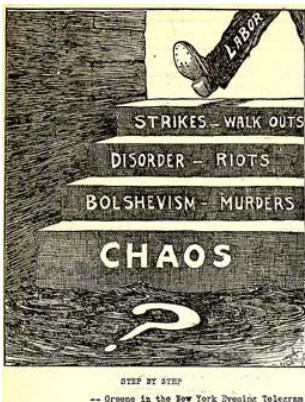
Define "jazz" as a musical style.

What city did jazz originate in the United States?

What "event" brought jazz to the Northern cities?

Describe Louis Armstrong's contribution to the "jazz movement."

Red Scare



What was the Red Scare of the 1920s?

How did the labor movement contribute to fears of communism and socialism?

What was the effect of the Red Scare upon immigration?

What was the quota?

What were the Palmer Raids?

Describe the circumstances of the Sacco & Vanzetti Case.

Harlem Renaissance



What was the Harlem Renaissance?

In their poetry, novels and art, what message were many African Americans expressing?

Langston Hughes became one of the most famous poets of the Harlem Renaissance. What were many of his poems about?

How would you describe Hughes' attitude toward being an African American in his poems?

How did Marcus Garvey hope to promote the international black community during the 1920s?

What happened to him?

Tin Pan Alley



What was Irving Berlin's occupation?

From where and when did Irving Berlin immigrate to the US?

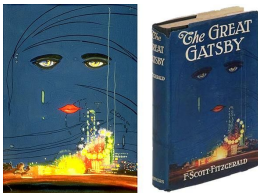
What are some of Irving Berlin's most famous songs?

What was Tin Pan Alley?

How did the composers of Tin Pan Alley affect the music industry?



Lost Generation Writers



Why were writers like F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, T.S. Elliot, and Sinclair Lewis known as the "Lost Generation"?

How did the 1920s contrast the horrors of modern warfare during WWI?

Some of them expatriated to Europe. What is an expatriate?

Where did some of them go?