

The Roaring Twenties Answer Key Commonlit

Name: _____

The Roaring Twenties Webquest

Use the links provided to answer the following questions.

Movies in the 1920's: www.1920-30.com/movies

1. Which format was used for movies in the 1910's-1920's?
2. Name 2 film stars of this era.
3. What was significant about the movie *The Jazz Singer*?

1920's Culture: <http://www.buzzle.com/articles/inventions-of-the-1920s.html>

1. Define the following slang terms: <http://www.huffenglish.com/gatsby/slang.html>
 - a. Cat's meow
 - b. Flat tire
 - c. Bee's knees
 - d. Swanky
 - e. Torpedo
 - f. Hooper
 - g. Jalopy
2. Write 5 words to describe a flapper: <http://www.ushistory.org/us/46d.asp>
3. Choose one of the gangsters listed and provide 3 facts about that person.
 - a. Al Capone http://www.albany.edu/~wm731882/organized_crime1_final.html
 - b. Carlo Gambino
http://www.crimelibrary.com/gangsters_outlaws/family_epics/gambino/3.html
 - c. John Joseph Gotti

The Roaring Twenties was a decade marked by significant social, cultural, and economic change in the United States and around the world. This period, which followed the end of World War I in 1918 and lasted until the onset of the Great Depression in 1929, is often characterized by a sense of liberation and a break from traditional norms. The decade saw the rise of jazz music, the flapper culture, and an explosion of consumerism, all of which contributed to a vibrant yet tumultuous era in American history.

The Social Climate of the Roaring Twenties

The Roaring Twenties was a time of profound transformation in the social fabric of American life. As soldiers returned from war, they brought with

them new ideas and a desire for change. This shift was particularly noticeable in the roles of women and the emergence of youth culture.

Women's Liberation and the Flapper Movement

1. The 19th Amendment: Ratified in 1920, this amendment granted women the right to vote, marking a monumental shift in gender equality.
2. Flappers: Young women known as flappers emerged, challenging traditional gender roles by wearing shorter skirts, bobbing their hair, and engaging in behaviors such as smoking and drinking in public.
3. Employment Opportunities: Many women entered the workforce during this decade, taking on roles in offices, factories, and other professions, which had been predominantly male-dominated prior to the war.

Youth Culture and the Jazz Age

The Roaring Twenties is often referred to as the Jazz Age, reflecting the burgeoning influence of jazz music on American culture.

- Rise of Jazz: Originating from African American communities, jazz became the soundtrack of the decade, symbolizing freedom and creativity.
- Dance Halls and Speakeasies: These venues became popular spots for socializing and dancing, where the Charleston and other dances reigned supreme.
- Youth Rebellion: Young people began to assert their independence, often in opposition to the values held by their parents, leading to a cultural rift.

The Economic Boom

The economic landscape of the Roaring Twenties was characterized by prosperity and consumerism, fueled by advances in technology and production methods.

Industrial Growth

1. Automobile Industry: The mass production of cars, particularly by companies like Ford, revolutionized transportation and created a cultural shift towards mobility.
2. Consumer Goods: The decade saw an explosion in the availability of consumer goods, including radios, refrigerators, and household appliances.
3. Credit and Installment Buying: The introduction of credit systems allowed consumers to purchase items on installment plans, making goods more accessible.

Stock Market Speculation

The stock market became a popular avenue for investment during the Roaring Twenties, leading to a culture of speculation.

- Increased Participation: More people began to invest in the stock market, often with little understanding of risks involved.
- The Bull Market: The stock market experienced significant growth, with stock prices rising rapidly, creating a false sense of security among investors.

Cultural Developments

The Roaring Twenties was a pivotal period for cultural expression, with art, literature, and entertainment flourishing.

Literature and the Lost Generation

1. The Lost Generation: This term describes a group of American writers who came of age during World War I and were disillusioned by the war's aftermath.
2. Notable Authors: Writers like F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, and Sinclair Lewis captured the essence of the era through their works, often critiquing the excesses and moral decay of society.

Art and Design

- Art Deco: This design style emerged during the 1920s, characterized by bold geometric shapes, vibrant colors, and luxurious materials.
- Harlem Renaissance: This cultural movement celebrated African American culture, with artists, musicians, and writers contributing to a rich tapestry of artistic expression.

Prohibition and Its Impact

One of the most significant social changes during the Roaring Twenties was the implementation of Prohibition, which outlawed the sale and consumption of alcohol.

The 18th Amendment and the Volstead Act

- Prohibition Era: Enforced from 1920 to 1933, this period aimed to eliminate alcohol consumption, driven by moral and health concerns.
- Illegal Activities: The ban led to the rise of speakeasies, bootlegging, and organized crime, as people sought ways to circumvent the law.

Public Response to Prohibition

1. Backlash: Many Americans openly defied Prohibition laws, leading to a culture of rebellion against the government.
2. Repeal: The negative consequences of Prohibition, including increased crime and corruption, ultimately led to its repeal in 1933 with the 21st Amendment.

The Legacy of the Roaring Twenties

The Roaring Twenties left an indelible mark on American society and culture, setting the stage for future developments.

Social Change

- Gender Roles: The decade saw a significant shift in gender roles, with women gaining more independence and asserting their rights.
- Cultural Diversity: The Harlem Renaissance and the influence of jazz music highlighted the contributions of African Americans to mainstream culture.

Economic Lessons

1. Stock Market Regulation: The excesses of the 1920s and the eventual crash in 1929 led to increased regulation of the stock market and financial institutions.
2. Consumerism: The decade illustrated the dangers of unchecked consumerism and speculation, lessons that remain relevant today.

Conclusion

The Roaring Twenties was a complex and dynamic decade that encapsulated both the exuberance and the challenges of a society in transition. From the cultural revolutions of the Harlem Renaissance and the rise of jazz to the economic boom and subsequent crash, this era laid the groundwork for modern America. The lessons learned from the Roaring Twenties continue to resonate, reminding us of the delicate balance between progress and excess.

Understanding this pivotal time helps us appreciate the ongoing evolution of American society and the cultural forces that shape our world today.

Frequently Asked Questions

What were some key cultural changes during the Roaring Twenties?

The Roaring Twenties saw significant cultural changes, including the rise of jazz music, flapper fashion, and the Harlem Renaissance, which celebrated African American culture and arts.

How did the economy impact society in the 1920s?

The booming economy of the 1920s led to increased consumerism, the proliferation of new technologies, and a rise in disposable income, which changed societal norms and lifestyles.

What role did women play in the Roaring Twenties?

Women gained more independence during the Roaring Twenties, exemplified by the 'flapper' movement, which embraced new fashions and social freedoms, including increased participation in the workforce and voting rights.

What was the significance of Prohibition during the 1920s?

Prohibition, enacted through the 18th Amendment, aimed to eliminate alcohol consumption but instead led to the rise of speakeasies, organized crime, and a general disregard for the law, significantly impacting American society.

How did the Roaring Twenties set the stage for the Great Depression?

The Roaring Twenties created an economic bubble characterized by speculation and overproduction; when the stock market crashed in 1929, it revealed the underlying weaknesses in the economy, leading to the Great Depression.

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