



CHAPTER  
**21**

# The Roaring Life of the 1920s

CHAPTER OBJECTIVE

INTERACT WITH HISTORY

TIME LINE

MAP

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GRAPH

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VISUAL SUMMARY

A circular logo with a blue outer ring, a yellow inner ring, and a red center. The word "CHAPTER" is written in white, uppercase letters along the top inner edge of the red circle. The number "21" is written in large, white, serif font in the center of the red circle.

CHAPTER  
21

# The Roaring Life of the 1920s

## CHAPTER OBJECTIVE

*To understand such issues as Prohibition, the changing role of women, and the influence of the Harlem Renaissance*



CHAPTER  
21

# The Roaring Life of the 1920s

## INTERACT WITH HISTORY

*The year is 1920. The World War has just ended. Boosted by the growth of the wartime industry, the United States economy is flourishing. Americans live life to the fullest as new social and cultural trends sweep the nation.*

*How might the new prosperity affect your everyday life?*

### Examine the Issues

- As Americans leave farms and small towns to take jobs in the cities, how might their lives change?
- How will economic prosperity affect married and unmarried women?
- How might rural and urban areas change as more and more families acquire automobiles?



CHAPTER  
**21**

# The Roaring Life of the 1920s

## TIME LINE

### The United States

**1920** Nineteenth Amendment gives women the right to vote.

**1922** Louis Armstrong plays for King Oliver's Creole Jazz Band in Chicago.

**1923** *Time* magazine begins publication.

**1924** Calvin Coolidge is elected president.

**1925** The Scopes trial takes place in Tennessee.

**1927** Charles Lindbergh makes the first nonstop solo transatlantic flight.

**1928** Herbert Hoover is elected president.

### The World

**1921** China's Communist Party is founded.

**1922** King Tut's tomb is discovered in Egypt.

**1923** Mustafa Kemal becomes first president of new Republic of Turkey.

**1926** Hirohito becomes emperor of Japan.

**1928** President Álvaro Obregón of Mexico is assassinated.

# Changing Ways of Life

## KEY IDEA

*Americans experience cultural conflicts as customs and values change in the United States during the 1920s.*

OVERVIEW

ASSESSMENT

SECTION  
1

# Changing Ways of Life

## OVERVIEW

### MAIN IDEA

Americans experienced cultural conflicts as customs and values changed in the 1920s.

### WHY IT MATTERS NOW

The way in which different groups react to change often causes conflict today.

### TERMS & NAMES

- Prohibition
- Speakeasy
- Clarence Darrow
- Scopes trial
- Bootlegger
- Fundamentalism

# Changing Ways of Life

## ASSESSMENT

1. Explain how government attempted to deal with (a) problems thought to stem from alcohol use and (b) the teaching of evolution.

### Issue: Prohibition

### Legislation

The Eighteenth Amendment banned the manufacture, sale, and transportation of alcohol.

### Outcome

Many Americans broke the law.

### Issue: Teaching Evolution

### Legislation

A Tennessee state law made it a crime to teach evolution.

### Outcome

Biology teacher John Scopes broke the law, was arrested, and was convicted.

*continued . . .*

# Changing Ways of Life

## ASSESSMENT

2. How might the overall atmosphere of the 1920s have contributed to the failure of Prohibition?

## ANSWER

People living in cities felt freer and less bound by traditional values; immigrants brought their own cultures, habits, and religious values.

*continued . . .*



# Changing Ways of Life

## ASSESSMENT

3. Why do you think organized crime spread so quickly through the cities during the 1920s?

### ANSWER

Organized crime grew as people sought illegal means by which to manufacture and transport alcohol during Prohibition.

*continued . . .*

# Changing Ways of Life

## ASSESSMENT

4. Do you think the passage of the Volstead Act and the ruling in the Scopes trial represented genuine triumphs for traditional values? **Think About:**

- changes in urban life in the 1920s
- the effects of Prohibition
- the legacy of the Scopes trial

## ANSWER

Yes: These events raised people's awareness and have had a lasting influence. The teaching of evolution still provokes legal controversy.

No: The Volstead Act not only did not stop people from drinking alcohol but caused the growth of organized crime. The conviction of John Scopes failed to discredit the theory of evolution.

*End of Section 1*

# The Twenties Woman

## KEY IDEA

*American women of the 1920s pursue new lifestyles and assume new jobs and different roles in society.*

OVERVIEW

ASSESSMENT

SECTION  
2

# The Twenties Woman

## OVERVIEW

### MAIN IDEA

American women pursued new lifestyles and assumed new jobs and different roles in society during the 1920s.

### WHY IT MATTERS NOW

Workplace opportunities and trends in family life are still major issues for women today.

### TERMS & NAMES

- double standard

- flapper

SECTION  
2

# The Twenties Woman

**ASSESSMENT**

1. Look at the graphic to help organize your thoughts. For each of the three categories, give examples that illustrate how women's lives changed in the 1920s.

Wearing new clothing styles,  
dancing, cutting their hair

**Lifestyles****Changes: Women in  
the 1920s****Families**

Decline in birthrate, more leisure time for housewives because of labor-saving devices, more pressure on working-class women, rebellious adolescents

**Jobs**

Teachers, nurses, librarians, clerical workers, store clerks, factory workers

*continued . . .*

# The Twenties Woman

## ASSESSMENT

2. During the 1920s, a double standard required women to observe stricter codes of behavior than men. Do you think that some women of this decade made real progress towards equality? **Think About:**

- the flapper's style and image
- changing views of marriage

## ANSWER

Yes: Women laid the foundation for equality when they became more open and assertive in communicating with men their age, dated casually, dressed nontraditionally, and viewed marriage as an equal partnership.

No: The new ways of dressing and casual dating were superficial changes.

*continued . . .*

# The Twenties Woman

## ASSESSMENT

3. In 1920, veteran suffragist Anna Howard Shaw stated that equality in the workplace would be harder for women to achieve than the vote.

*“ You younger women will have a harder task than ours. You will want equality in business, and it will be even harder to get than the vote.”*

—Anna Howard Shaw

Why do you think Shaw held this belief?

## ANSWER

Shaw may have believed that voting equality could be achieved by passing a law. Equality in the workplace, however, would be more dependent on people’s attitudes and acceptance, which could only be earned over time.

# Education and Popular Culture

## KEY IDEA

*The mass media, movies, and spectator sports play important roles in the popular culture of the 1920s.*

OVERVIEW

ASSESSMENT



# Education and Popular Culture

## OVERVIEW

### MAIN IDEA

The mass media, movies, and spectator sports played important roles in creating the popular culture of the 1920s—a culture that many artists and writers criticized.

### WHY IT MATTERS NOW

Much of today's popular culture can trace its roots to the popular culture of the 1920s.

### TERMS & NAMES

- Ernest Hemingway
- George Gershwin
- Charles A. Lindbergh
- F. Scott Fitzgerald
- Sinclair Lewis
- Edna St. Vincent Millay
- Georgia O'Keeffe

SECTION  
3

# Education and Popular Culture

## ASSESSMENT

1. Look at the graphic to help organize your thoughts. List some key events relating to 1920s popular culture. Use the dates below as a guide.

First commercial radio broadcast, Negro National League (baseball) founded

**1920**

Gertrude Ederle swims the English Channel

**1926**

*Steamboat Willie*, the first animated film with sound

**1928**

**1923**  
Founding of *Time*

**1927**  
Tunney-Dempsey boxing match; Lindbergh's solo flight to Paris; *The Jazz Singer*, Babe Ruth's record-breaking 60 home runs

*continued . . .*

# Education and Popular Culture

## ASSESSMENT

2. In what ways do you think the mass media and mass culture helped Americans create a sense of national community in the 1920s? **Think About:**

- the content and readership of newspapers and magazines
- attendance at sports events and movie theaters
- the scope of radio broadcasts

## ANSWER

Radio and the news media enabled people nationwide to experience the same entertainment, sports, and information.

*continued . . .*

# Education and Popular Culture

## ASSESSMENT

3. Do you think the popular heroes of the 1920s were heroes in a real sense? Why or why not?

## ANSWER

Yes: They were examples of good virtues and exceptional talent.

No: Their accomplishments did not bring enduring changes to American life.

*continued . . .*

SECTION  
3

# Education and Popular Culture

**ASSESSMENT**

4. Summarize the effects of education and mass media on society in the 1920s.

**ANSWER**

Education and mass media in the 1920s helped to create a literate population and a national identity.

# The Harlem Renaissance

## KEY IDEA

*African-American ideas, politics, art, literature, and music flourish in Harlem and elsewhere in the United States.*

OVERVIEW

ASSESSMENT

# The Harlem Renaissance

## OVERVIEW

### MAIN IDEA

African-American ideas, politics, art, literature, and music flourished in Harlem and elsewhere in the United States.

### WHY IT MATTERS NOW

The Harlem Renaissance provided a foundation of African-American intellectualism to which African-American writers, artists, and musicians contribute today.

### TERMS & NAMES

- Claude McKay
- Langston Hughes
- Louis Armstrong
- Duke Ellington
- Paul Robeson
- Bessie Smith
- Marcus Garvey
- Zora Neale Hurston
- Harlem Renaissance
- James Weldon Johnson

# The Harlem Renaissance

## ASSESSMENT

1. Identify three areas of artistic achievement in the Harlem Renaissance. For each, name two outstanding African Americans.

### Harlem Renaissance: Areas of Achievement

#### Writing

1. Langston Hughes
2. Zora Neale Hurston

#### Performing

1. Paul Robeson
2. Ethel Waters

#### Music

1. Bessie Smith
2. Louis Armstrong

*continued . . .*



# The Harlem Renaissance

## ASSESSMENT

2. Speculate on why an African-American renaissance flowered during the 1920s. **Think About:**

- racial discrimination in the South
- campaigns for equality in the North
- Harlem's diverse cultures
- the changing culture of all Americans

## ANSWER

African Americans migrated north in large numbers and found more equality and a community that supported the arts. Mingling with Caribbean people and Northerners created a unique cultural exchange and served as inspiration for the arts.

*continued . . .*

# The Harlem Renaissance

## ASSESSMENT

3. How did popular culture in America change as a result of the Great Migration?

## ANSWER

Many African Americans who migrated north moved to Harlem, a neighborhood on the Upper West Side of New York's Manhattan Island. In Harlem, during the 1920s, a literary and artistic movement known as the Harlem Renaissance flourished. The spirit and talent of the Renaissance as well as the music of black musicians such as Louis Armstrong spread across the country.

*continued . . .*

# The Harlem Renaissance

## ASSESSMENT

4. What did the Harlem Renaissance contribute to both black and general American history?

## ANSWER

The Harlem Renaissance nurtured African-American pride, and contributed great literature, drama, and music to American culture.