

The Jazz Age

Lesson 4 The Roaring Twenties

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How do new ideas change the way people live?

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *Why did American art and society change during the 1920s?*
2. *Why did various groups clash over important issues?*
3. *Who were the presidential candidates of 1928, and what were the major issues of the campaign?*

Terms to Know

flapper a carefree young woman of the 1920s

mass media forms of communication that can reach millions of people

expatriate someone who chooses to live in another country

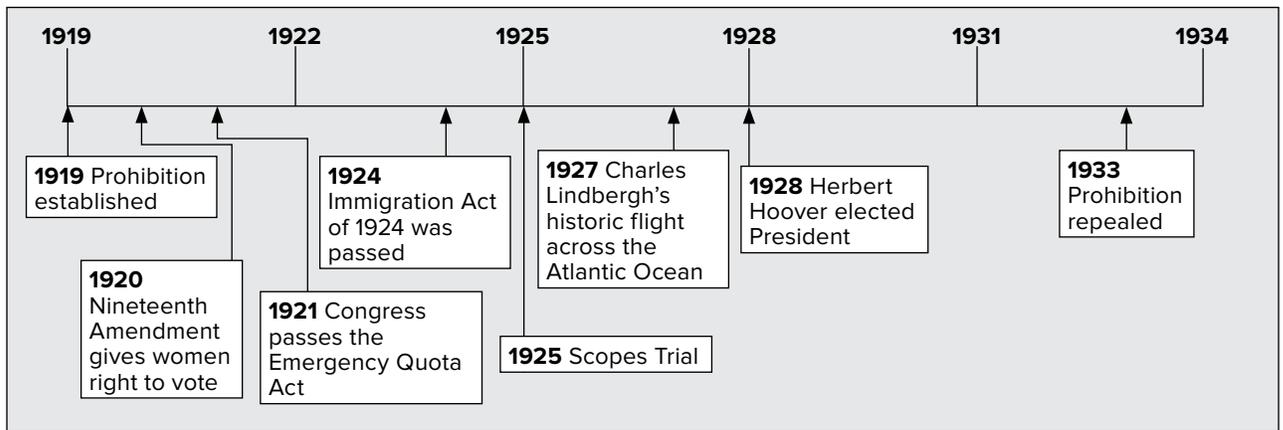
Prohibition a total ban on the manufacture, sale, and transportation of liquor throughout the United States, achieved through the Eighteenth Amendment

nativism belief that native-born Americans are superior to foreigners

quota system an arrangement setting the number of immigrants allowed from each country

evolution scientific theory that humans and other species changed and developed over long periods of time

When did it happen?



What do you know?

In the first column, answer the questions based on what you know before you study. After this lesson, complete the last column.

Now...		Later...
	How did the young women of the 1920s called flappers look and dress?	
	In what areas was Prohibition most successful?	
	Who supported a ban on teaching evolution?	

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Lesson 4 The Roaring Twenties, *Continued*

Social and Cultural Change

The 1920s were a time of great social change. Women won the right to vote in 1920 through the Nineteenth Amendment. More women began to work outside the home. Most became teachers or office workers. Some began professional careers. Others ran for political office. The symbol of the new woman of the 1920s was the **flapper**. Flappers were carefree young women. They wore short “bobbed” hair, heavy makeup, and short skirts.

Changes for Women in the 1920s
1. Women won the right to vote in 1920.
2. Women worked outside the home.
3. Flappers were a symbol for new women.
4. Women began professional careers.
5. Women ran for political office.

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Mass media are forms of communication that reach millions of people. In the 1920s they included newspapers, radio, and movies. Mass media grew quickly. They brought entertainment, sporting events, news, and advertising into people’s homes. They helped spread cultural changes. During the 1920s, the motion picture industry became a big business.

Americans took up many new activities. These included such things as board games, crossword puzzles, flagpole sitting, and dance marathons.

Jazz is a kind of music. Its roots are in African American culture. Jazz became popular during this period. Many people call the 1920s the Jazz Age.

Jazz helped inspire a cultural movement centered in Harlem in New York City. It was called the Harlem Renaissance. African American writers wrote about their experiences in novels, poems, and short stories.

During the 1920s, some writers questioned American ideals. Some of them moved to other countries. They became **expatriates**. Other writers stayed in the United States and wrote about American experiences.



1. Place a three-tab Foldable over the text that begins with “Mass media are forms ...” Label the anchor tab *Social and Cultural Change*. Label the three tabs *Mass Media*, *Jazz*, and *American Writers*. On the front and back of the tabs, list words and phrases that you have learned about each.



Listing

2. What types of information did mass media bring to people’s homes during the 1920s?



Defining

3. What was the Harlem Renaissance?

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Lesson 4 The Roaring Twenties, *Continued*



Describing

4. What did the Eighteenth Amendment do?

5. What did the Twenty-First Amendment do?



Reading Check

6. What is a quota system?



Making Connections

7. Why did Prohibition lead to an increase in crime?

A Clash of Cultures



Some Americans feared social change. They thought it was a threat to the traditional American way of life. The Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution established **Prohibition**. This was a total ban on the making, selling, and transporting of liquor.

Prohibition divided the country. Some people in the South and Midwest were for it. In other areas, the demand for alcohol led people to break the law. Illegal bars, called speakeasies, began to appear in cities.

Prohibition led to more crime. Gangsters made and sold illegal alcohol. They made millions of dollars. Americans came to realize that Prohibition had failed. Prohibition ended in 1933 with the passage of the Twenty-First Amendment.

During the 1920s, **nativism** increased. Nativism is the belief that native-born Americans are superior to foreigners. Nativism led to the rebirth of the Ku Klux Klan. It moved from the South into other areas of the country. The Klan used scare tactics and violence against African Americans, Catholics, Jews, and immigrants. Some people also feared that foreigners would take their jobs.

Nativism also led to a **quota system** that was established by the government. The quota system limited the number of immigrants to the United States from each country. The system favored people from northern and western Europe. But the quota system did not apply to Mexico or Canada. Immigration from these countries increased at that time.

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Disagreements between old and new values happened in religion, too. A Tennessee law made it illegal to teach **evolution**. Evolution is the scientific theory that humans evolved over vast periods of time. John Scopes ignored the law. He was brought to court for teaching evolution in his high school. Many Christians believed in strictly following the Bible. They were called fundamentalists. They were against the theory of evolution because it did not follow their religious beliefs. Two famous lawyers argued the case. The trial made it appear that some Christians were trying to force their religious beliefs on all Americans.

The Election of 1928

President Coolidge surprised people when he announced that that he would not run for another term. Herbert Hoover was nominated by the Republican Party. Hoover was a Quaker from the Midwest. He was known for his work in helping get food to Europe after World War I. He also tried to get government and business to work together. Hoover supported Prohibition.

The Democratic nominee was Alfred E. Smith. He was a son of immigrants and was governor of New York. Smith was the first Catholic candidate for president. He fought for workers and the poor. He opposed Prohibition.

The 1928 election showed the tensions in American society. Hoover was also helped by a strong economy. He easily won the election. He represented traditional values.

Check for Understanding

List three ways that women made progress during the 1920s.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

List three areas of cultural conflict during the 1920s and give a short description of the conflict.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Abc **Marking the Text**

8. Underline the definition of evolution. What group opposed teaching evolution?

✓ **Reading Check**

9. Describe Hoover's beliefs about business and government.



10. Use a two-tab Foldable and cut the tabs in half to make four tabs. Place it along the dotted line to cover Check for Understanding. Write *1920s Changes & Conflicts* on the anchor tab. Label tabs for *Women, Alcohol, Immigration, and Religion*. On the front and back of the tabs, write what you remember about the conflicts and changes of each.

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