

The Century: Peter Jennings Boom and Bust: 1920s

1. What were the results of Prohibition?

Prohibition led to millions of people breaking the law by drinking alcohol in illegal bars. This led to organized crime and gang wars in American cities; it was a very dangerous time.

2. What causes massive migrations to urban areas and what impact does that have on American culture? What might skyscrapers symbolize?

With technology advancing and people wanting to have more exciting lives many began leaving the country and headed for the cities with more people living in cities more buildings were built and more businesses sprang up leading to even bigger cities than in the past. Skyscrapers were also being constructed on a larger scale and they were meant to represent America's growing power and goals.

3. What is Jazz? What is the Harlem Renaissance?

Jazz originated in New Orleans from the work of African Americans and it is basically forced rhythm put together and organized into song. Harlem became a hotbed of music for this new age and this led to many social and economic changes thus being named the Harlem renaissance.

4. What were some of the technological innovations of the 20s and how do they change the everyday life of people?

It is hard to say which had more of an effect on Americans either the automobile or the radio but both were incredible advancements. The automobile allowed people to really get away from their lives and just go on vacation and have fun; the radio also let Americans become more informed about current events and to listen to the same thing giving them sense of unity.

5. What impact did advertising and the radio have on the U.S.?

Never before were people able to fully show and tell the public about products that you could buy in stores. With automobiles, radio's,

highways, road side advertising, and much more the modern world was truly beginning to take form.

6. What effect does credit have on people and the American economy?

Credit was where people would buy something now and pay for it later people loved this idea and soon everyone was using credit. This whole process boosted the economy because if the people were just going to take it now and pay later it meant more people could take consumer goods leading to more goods being produced at factories to satisfy the public.

7. How do women's lives change in the 20s and why?

In the past women would often stay home and and clean and teach the children; but not in this new age. Young women would be all over the streets having fun with their friends without a care in the world. This gave women more of a sense of equality.

8. How does rural America react to the changes taking place in America's cities?

Rural America was very concerned about future generations with all the "chaos and madness" as they would call it going on. The people of small towns would try to keep things simple and calm in their little communities since they enjoyed sticking with the old ways.

9. What is the Scopes Monkey Trial and how does it reflect the conflict between old and new in the 20s.

The trial happened after high school teacher, John Scopes, taught his students evolution when it was deemed illegal to do such a thing; in the end scopes was convicted guilty and was forced to pay one hundred dollars. The trial showed that in the 20s half the country wanted to stick with the old and the other half wanted to move on to the future.

10. What new ideas does the KKK adopt in the 20s, where did their influence grow, and how does that represent the conflict between old and new?

The Ku Klux Klan grew more powerful than ever before up to about 4 million strong and they were against almost everyone blacks, jews, catholics, etc. They were so strong that their influence got into the political system; they represented not letting go of the past and holding on to bitterness.

11. Why were sports so important and how did the media enhance their popularity?

Baseball was the most important since it gave people something to watch in their spare time and the mass public could finally enjoy sports as a family with friends. The media used the radio to tell the public what was going on even if they weren't at the game and this led to more people wanted radios and even more than they needed.

12. What do the feats of Lindberg and Byrd represent to most Americans?

They represented that with this new age ordinary people could now do great things that no one had every even dreamed of. This gave everyone a feeling that if these men can achieve greatness then why can't they.

13. What was one reason why the Stock Market crashed in 1929 and who was effected? Were there any social programs to fall back on? One of the reasons the stock market crashed was because in 1929 the stockholders sold over 16 million shares leading to the loss of billions of dollars. Unfortunately for the public since there were no social programs to help them the majority of America went into poverty.

14. What do you think Peter Jennings meant when he said the 20s were a time when Americans broke traditional geographic, technological, and social boundaries?

It means exactly what it says Americans believed that with this new age came new ideas so this new generation believed they could do things that their grandparents would think insane. It is likely that had WW1 not occurred the 20s would have been very different if the US hadn't received all that money from the war.