The Roaring Twenties

Section 1

MAIN IDEAS
1. President Harding promised a return to peace and prosperity.
2. Calvin Coolidge supported a probusiness agenda.
3. American business boomed in the 1920s.
4. In 1928, Americans elected Herbert Hoover, hoping he would help good financial times continue.

Key Terms and People

Warren G. Harding  a Republican president elected in 1920
Calvin Coolidge  became president when Harding died; reelected to office in 1924
Teapot Dome scandal  the acceptance of bribes by Secretary of the Interior Albert Fall in exchange for control of government oil reserves
Kellogg-Briand Pact  an unenforceable agreement among 62 nations to outlaw war
Model T  a low-cost automobile invented by Ford
moving assembly line  a production system that moves parts between groups of workers
Herbert Hoover  a president elected in 1928 with promises for more prosperity

Academic Vocabulary

incentive  something that leads people to follow a certain course of action

Section Summary

RETURN TO PEACE AND PROSPERITY
As the war ended, millions of soldiers came home just as factories stopped making war supplies. Many people could not find jobs. But demand for goods was high so prices rose. Workers couldn’t afford the goods, so many went on strike for higher wages.

Warren G. Harding ran for president with running mate Calvin Coolidge. Harding promised a return to “normalcy.” After he was elected, Harding worked hard to strengthen the economy. He used tax cuts for the wealthy as an incentive to invest in business. As a result, an economic boom started.

What was Warren G. Harding’s campaign promise?
_______________________
Harding’s term in office was filled with problems. Several appointees used their power for illegal purposes. In the worst scandal, Secretary of the Interior Albert Fall was convicted of taking bribes. This became known as the **Teapot Dome scandal**.

### COOLIDGE’S PROBUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

When Harding died in 1923, Vice President Coolidge became president. He acted quickly to clean up the government. He was more probusiness than Harding. He pushed tax cuts and higher tariffs. During his term, the United States and 14 other nations signed the **Kellogg-Briand Pact**. There wasn’t a way to enforce the effort to ban war.

### BUSINESS BOOMS

In the 1920s U.S. business boomed as factories changed. Henry Ford built the **Model T**, a car many people could afford. He reduced costs using a **moving assembly line**. Ford raised wages and reduced the work day to eight hours. He also hired workers that other factories would not hire, such as African Americans and people with disabilities.

Millions found jobs in the automobile industry. Travel increased, spurring business. Companies produced goods that took advantage of the increasing number of homes with electricity.

### HOOVER ELECTED

In 1928 Secretary of Commerce **Herbert Hoover** ran for president with promises to continue the prosperity. He easily defeated Al Smith, whose campaign focused on city dwellers. For many voters, Smith’s religious faith also was an issue.

### CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

**Critical Thinking: Hypothesizing**

The availability of electricity in homes was an economic boost. Write a paragraph about how things might have been different in the 1920s without electricity.
DIRECTIONS Look at each set of terms below. On the line provided, write the letter of the term that does not relate to the others.

1. a. Warren G. Harding  
   b. Calvin Coolidge  
   c. Henry Ford  
   d. Herbert Hoover

2. a. Kellogg-Briand Pact  
   b. Teapot Dome scandal  
   c. corruption  
   d. Warren G. Harding

3. a. moving assembly line  
   b. Henry Ford  
   c. Calvin Coolidge  
   d. Model T

4. a. Calvin Coolidge  
   b. Kellogg-Briand Pact  
   c. war  
   d. Herbert Hoover

5. a. Henry Ford  
   b. Warren G. Harding  
   c. Model T  
   d. efficiency

DIRECTIONS On the line provided before each statement, write T if a statement is true and F if a statement is false. If the statement is false, write the correct term on the line after each sentence that makes the sentence a true statement.

6. The Kellogg-Briand Pact involved bribes paid by oil companies to government officials.

7. Henry Ford used an assembly line in his factories to speed production.

8. Calvin Coolidge was more probusiness than Warren G. Harding had been.

9. The Model T was the first affordable automobile.

10. Herbert Hoover promised limited government spending and a return to “normalcy.”
The Red Scare

This cartoon was published in 1919 during the Red Scare.

This image of the flame labeled “Anarchy” resembles the flame of the Statue of Liberty and suggests that anarchy, or lawlessness, threatens U.S. liberty.

ANALYZING POLITICAL CARTOONS

Study the political cartoon, and then answer the questions that follow.

1. What does the label *Reds* on the man’s cap refer to?

2. Why do you think some Americans feared that anarchy might replace liberty during the Red Scare?

3. Explain what the image of the knife of Bolshevism symbolizes.
The Roaring Twenties

Section 2

MAIN IDEAS
1. In the 1920s many young people found new independence in a changing society.
2. Postwar tensions occasionally led to fear and violence.
3. Competing ideals caused conflict between Americans with traditional beliefs and those with modern views.
4. Following the war, minority groups organized to demand their civil rights.

Key Terms and People
flappers young women in the 1920s who challenged traditional women’s roles
Red Scare a period of fear of Communists and radicals in the United States
Twenty-first Amendment a Constitutional Amendment that repealed prohibition
fundamentalism belief in word-for-word interpretation of the Bible
Scopes trial the trial of John Scopes for teaching evolution in school
Great Migration the movement of African Americans to northern cities
Marcus Garvey a black leader who encouraged an independent black economy

Academic Vocabulary
traditional customary, time-honored

Section Summary
A CHANGING SOCIETY
World War I changed the way people saw the world. People moved to cities and for the first time more Americans lived in cities than in rural areas. Young adults had more personal freedom than in the past. They were better educated and more women had joined the workforce. Women found new opportunities. Flappers challenged the traditional ideas of how women should behave.

FEAR AND VIOLENCE
Some of the social changes of the 1920s were violent. There were massive labor strikes caused by
unemployment and inflation. As Communists took control in Russia, the Red Scare led to action against Communists in the United States.

Some people saw immigrants as a threat to their jobs and culture. This led to a fear of foreigners. Laws were passed to restrict the number of immigrants. The Quota Act of 1921 gave preference to immigrants from Western Europe. A 1924 law banned immigration from East Asia.

COMPETING IDEALS
Differences were also growing between older rural traditions and modern urban society. One issue was prohibition, which was hard to enforce. It led to corruption and created new ways for criminals to get rich. In 1933 prohibition was ended by the Twenty-first Amendment to the Constitution.

Religious leaders saw a move away from traditional values. In response, fundamentalism grew strong in rural areas. The fundamentalists believed in an exact, word-for-word reading of the Bible. They believed that scientific theories such as evolution contradicted the Bible. The Scopes trial was the center of a national debate over modern science and religious values.

MINORITY RIGHTS
The Great Migration continued during the economic boom of the 1920s. Economic recession led to racial tensions in many cities. Minorities, including African Americans and Hispanic Americans, began fighting to protect their rights. Marcus Garvey encouraged pride in black culture. Native Americans gained the rights of citizenship and fought to protect their lands.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY
Critical Thinking: Compare Write a paragraph comparing immigration issues today with immigration issues in the 1920s.
DIRECTIONS  Read each sentence and fill in the blank with the word in the word pair that best completes the sentence.

1. A time of fear of Communists was known as ______________________.
   (fundamentalism/the Red Scare)

2. The failed experiment of prohibition was officially ended with the _________________. (Scopes trial/Twenty-first Amendment)

3. ______________________ challenged the traditional roles of women in the 1920s. (Flappers/Fundamentalism)

4. ______________________ encouraged black people around the world to express pride in their culture. (fundamentalism/Marcus Garvey)

5. Large numbers of African Americans moved to the North searching for factory jobs as part of the _______________________. (Great Migration/Red Scare)

DIRECTIONS  Match the terms in the first column with their correct definitions from the second column by placing the letter of the correct definition in the space provided before each term.

_____ 6. Red Scare a. belief in a word-for-word interpretation of the Bible
_____ 7. flappers b. encouraged pride in black culture
_____ 8. Scopes trial c. led to a crackdown against many suspected Communists and radicals
_____ 9. fundamentalism d. a legal fight over the teaching of evolution
_____ 10. Marcus Garvey e. openly challenged ideas of how women were supposed to behave
MAIN IDEAS
1. Radio and movies linked the country in a national culture.
2. Jazz and blues music became popular nationwide.
3. Writers and artists introduced new styles and artistic ideas.

Key Terms and People

talkie  motion picture with sound
Jazz Age  name given to the 1920s due to the popularity of jazz music
Harlem Renaissance  period of African American artistic accomplishment in New York City
Langston Hughes  poet and writer who wrote about African American life
Lost Generation  writers in the 1920s who criticized American society
expatriates  people who live outside their home country
Georgia O'Keeffe  innovative artist famous for her detailed drawings of flowers

Academic Vocabulary
innovation  a new idea or way of doing something

Section Summary
A NATIONAL CULTURE
The radio helped build a new national culture during the 1920s. People from around the country were able to share common experiences. Radio networks broadcast the same programs to hundreds of stations at a time.

Movies also opened up a new, exciting means of entertainment and adventure. Fans were thrilled by the first movie with sound, or talkie. The first talkie, The Jazz Singer, appeared in 1927. Movie stars became heroes to many millions of Americans.

Other people became heroes as well. Fans packed baseball stadiums and other athletic events. Pilots became nationally known as they broke flight records. New ideas such as psychoanalysis entered popular culture.
POPULAR MUSIC

The booming economy and new forms of entertainment caused the decade to be named the Roaring Twenties. Another nickname was the Jazz Age because jazz music became so popular.

Jazz developed in New Orleans as a blend of African American spirituals, European rhythms, and West African rhythms. African Americans brought this music north during the Great Migration. Blues music was born in the rural South during slavery and became popular in the 1920s. Both jazz and the blues were musical innovations that remain popular today.

WRITERS AND ARTISTS

Writers and artists also changed American culture. The Harlem Renaissance included writers Langston Hughes and Claude McKay. They told of African American life in stories, poems, and plays.

Many American writers told of their experiences in the United States and around the world. Young writers of the Lost Generation expressed feelings of separation from American society. Some of them formed a community of expatriates in Paris. Lost Generation writers included Ernest Hemingway and F. Scott Fitzgerald. Another was Sinclair Lewis, who became the first American to win the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Painters like Georgia O’Keeffe experimented with new styles and ways to express themselves. Meanwhile, architects were designing skyscrapers that still define American city skylines today.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Write to Explore Imagine that you have just moved to a city in the 1920s. Write a short letter to a friend telling how life in the city is different from rural life.
DIRECTIONS Use the eight words or phrases from the word list to write a summary of what you learned in the section.

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

DIRECTIONS Look at each set of terms below. On the line provided, write the letter of the term that does not relate to the others.

____  1. a. Lost Generation
    b. expatriates
    c. talkie
    d. Ernest Hemingway

____  2. a. F. Scott Fitzgerald
    b. Harlem Renaissance
    c. Zora Neale Hurston
    d. Langston Hughes

____  3. a. Jazz Age
    b. Harlem Renaissance
    c. Lost Generation
    d. Warren G. Harding

____  4. a. Georgia O’Keeffe
    b. George Herman “Babe” Ruth
    c. Langston Hughes
    d. Louis Armstrong
A large number of African Americans moved north during the early years of the 20th century. Many settled in Harlem, a section of New York City. By 1930 several neighborhoods in Harlem were comprised primarily of African Americans. Study the map below and answer the questions that follow.

**MAP ACTIVITY**

1. On the map, write an X on Langston Hughes’ house.

2. On the map, draw a line to show a direct route from Marcus Garvey’s house to his headquarters.
3. On the map, use a bright color to draw a line around all the areas of Harlem that were mostly African American by 1913.

4. On the map, use a different bright color to draw a line around all the areas of Harlem that were mostly African American by 1925.

5. On the map, use another color to draw a line around all the areas of Harlem that were mostly African American by 1930.

ANALYZING MAPS

1. **Place** By what year did the area around 140th Street and 7th Avenue become populated primarily by African Americans?

2. **Movement** What direction would a person travel to go from the Harlem Courthouse to the Cotton Club?

3. **Region** What four streets bordered the main area that was populated mostly by African Americans by 1913?

4. **Rank** Arrange the following parks in order of nearest to farthest from the Dunbar Apartments: Central Park, Riverside Park, Colonial Park, Mt. Morris Park.

5. **Compare/Contrast** In 1915 would a person who wanted to live in a predominately African-American neighborhood be more likely to move to an area around “Sugar Hill” or Connie’s Inn? Explain your answer.