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Dynamic Decades

An Exploration of America in the
20th Century



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Welcome to ***Dynamic Decades!***

Meet Emily Granger and George Reynolds.

These fictional characters, whose lives exactly span the 20th century, will accompany your students as they explore the century's *Dynamic Decades*. They will share bits of their stories and offer personal perspective on events and issues of the period. You'll find brief biographies of them, and letters written by them in each decade, in the reproducible Student Guides.

Designed for students in grades 7–12, *Dynamic Decades* is a creative, hands-on, small-group research and report approach to studying life in 20th century America, with a personal twist. Use this unit to explore parts or all of the 1900s.

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Purpose and Overview

What is *Dynamic Decades*?

Dynamic Decades: An Exploration of America in the 20th Century is an instructional research and report approach to small group study of American history and culture in the 1900s, decade by decade, for grades 7–12. It accommodates different learning styles and emphasizes critical thinking and hands-on involvement with information and issues of the time. Materials for each decade follow the same format to facilitate concurrent study of multiple decades by different student groups in the same classroom. This unit uses a jigsaw technique to expose an entire class to key features of American life, in each decade of the 20th century, in a 2–4 week period.

Students will employ standard research processes (Big6 or another process preferred by your school) and complete a Research Worksheet to learn about significant events and trends in these content areas:

- America and the world
- Family life, work, and school
- Science and technology
- Key social issues
- Arts, sports, and culture

Working in small groups, students will use critical thinking skills to pursue and process the results of their research, and to demonstrate comprehension and evaluation of events and trends, through one of these presentation projects:

- Write, stage, costume, rehearse, and present an original “American Life” skit
- Create, explain, read excerpts from, and display a “Decade(s) in Review” newspaper
- Create, explain, and demonstrate a “Fascinating Facts” quiz game
- Create and show a Media Presentation that reflects media developments during the decade(s) studied

With your guidance, student groups will choose a presentation project that interests them and leverages the specific mix of learning styles and talents (Gardner’s Multiple Intelligences) in the group. In an optional phase of the project, each student will be required to form, express, and defend a personal position on a key historical event or social issue from the decade(s) he or she studied.

A “personal twist” is provided in the form of the two fictional characters—a white woman from the rural South and a black man from the urban North—

whose lives exactly span the 20th century. Students will “meet” Emily Granger and George Reynolds, will read letters written by each that reflect events and issues of the decade(s), and will be invited to view the decade(s) from the perspectives of these characters. Part of each student’s task is to imagine how Emily and George might have experienced those years and to build their points of view into his or her group’s presentation project. This feature is designed to maximize learning by engaging students’ emotions in the subject matter, exercising their growing powers of reflection and empathy, and encouraging them to anticipate and consider different perspectives on history.

What do students learn?

The activities within this unit are correlated to national and state education standards. To obtain specific standards information for this title, go to <http://www.teachinteract.com> or contact us at 1-800-359-0961.

In this unit, your students will gain and experience the following:

Knowledge:

- Recognize America’s changing role in the world in each decade and throughout the century
- Recognize how advances in science and technology affected life during their assigned decade(s)
- Recognize the gap between social ideals and practical reality in their assigned decade(s)
- Recognize ways in which family life, work, and school are similar and different now compared to their assigned decade(s)
- Recognize key features of the social movements for rights and freedoms during their decade(s) and throughout the century
- Recognize the impact of an evolving mass media on people’s attitudes and social change
- Recognize key features of intergenerational tensions during their decade(s) and throughout the century
- Recognize key individual and organizational leaders of social change during their assigned decade(s), and the nature of their efforts
- Understand major legislation of their decade(s) designed to protect individual rights and address changing social needs
- Recognize how different factors of inheritance, experience, and learning create individual perspective and point of view
- Recognize that social change creates tension because it impacts

different groups of people differently

- Recognize different ways of approaching conflict and seeking social change
- Understand different points of view about social issues of the decade
- Understand how past decisions affect the present and present decisions may affect the future

Skills:

- ***Read nonfiction literature with understanding***

- Practice research skills
- Practice teaching while learning content information
- Complete writing activities based on the chosen presentation project
- Work cooperatively to share resources and gain support to complete activities
- Practice communicating effectively, both orally and in writing
- Practice using information technology to collect, analyze, organize, and evaluate information
- Practice critical thinking skills of knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation
- Practice effective shaping and presentation of an opinion or position

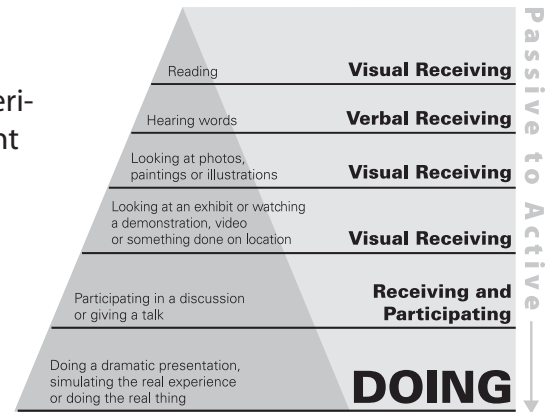
Attitudes:

- ***Recognize the importance of information to a democratic society***

- Appreciate the impact of events of their decade(s), and the century as a whole, on our lives today
- Recognize the importance of considering differing points of view
- Appreciate the complexity and interconnectedness of different aspects of American society
- Appreciate the responsibilities involved in America's emergence as a superpower in the world
- Appreciate the need to protect minority rights while respecting majority rule
- Appreciate the inevitable tension between generations, and between traditionalists and progressives, as society evolves
- Appreciate the power of citizen groups to create social change

Experiential Learning

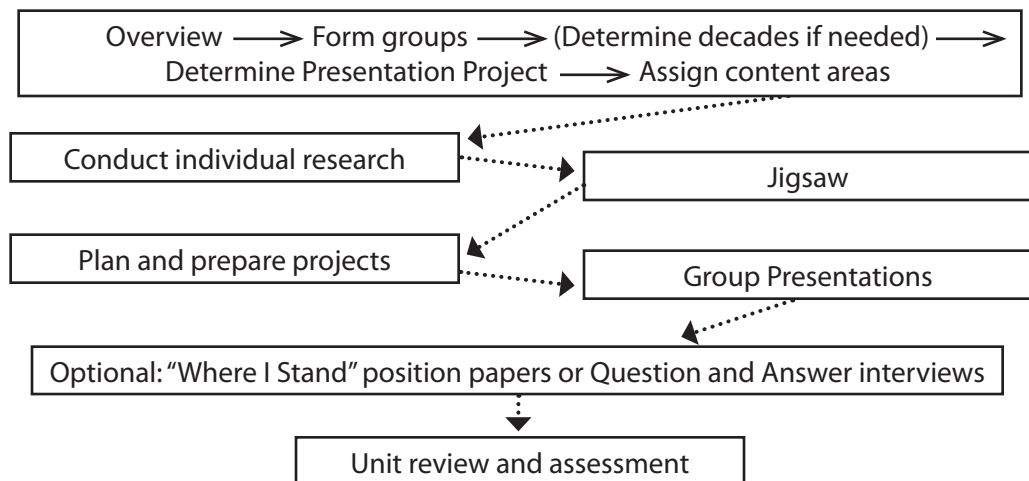
Students learn best through experience. Research shows that student retention and understanding increase as students become more involved and engaged in the learning process, regardless of whether they are high achievers, reluctant learners, or second language learners. Based on that premise, this unit offers student groups a variety of choices of presentation projects, each of which involves diverse roles and modes of participation. Students will combine individual research with cooperative planning, production, and presentation tasks.



How are students organized?

Dynamic Decades involves a balance of individual research and small group study. Ideally, each group will have five students, so that each student can specialize in one subject content area, in jigsaw mode. Each group might choose its presentation project, or you might assign projects based on the make-up of each group, making sure that at least one student group works with each of the project options. Students might dole out project tasks among themselves, or you might assign subject matter or roles to suit your educational goals. If you wish to cover several or all decades of the 20th century during your unit, you might assign each group a different decade or pair of consecutive decades (e.g., 1900s–1910s, 1960s–1970s). Students can then use jigsaw strategies, in which each researches a specific content area and brings his or her knowledge back to the group, and each group brings its decade expertise to the class as a whole.

Students will use their Student Guides to work through each step of the project:



How much time is required?

This unit is designed to be completed in two to four weeks of daily class periods and out-of-class time as needed. Three lesson plans are provided for teaching one decade in two weeks, the whole century in four weeks, and the whole century in two weeks. Covering the whole century in two weeks requires more out-of-class research and preparation time, and eliminates the “Where I Stand” personal positions assignment.

How is learning assessed?

The process for assessing student work is flexible, as the range of activities lends itself to a variety of evaluation methods. All students will turn in Research Worksheets complete with research notes and a bibliography of sources. Other activities allow students opportunities to demonstrate learning and competency through different modes and intelligences. We have included three standard rubrics so your assessment can address not only written work but also evaluation of demonstrated design and presentation skills, group participation, evidence of empathy with varied viewpoints, and solid evaluative thinking in reaching and defending personal opinions. The Presentation Rubric may be used to evaluate the work of a group as a whole, or completed separately for each student to reflect his or her contribution to the presentation project.

Another option for assessing learning is to compile a student-constructed quiz on the decade(s) studied, with each group contributing five questions and an answer key.

Why use *Dynamic Decades*?

Like all Interact units, *Dynamic Decades* provides differentiated instruction through a broad range of activities and assessment options. Students learn and use knowledge, skills, and attitudes covering standards for U.S. History and touching on standards in Arts, Behavioral Studies, Civics, Language Arts, and Life Skills. Activities offer students opportunities to gain and demonstrate knowledge through several of Gardner’s Multiple Intelligences, including Interpersonal, Visual, Verbal/Linguistic, Bodily/Kinesthetic, and Logical/Mathematical.

Specific ways to differentiate:

- Adjust the level and specific nature of challenge by controlling group size and make-up, scope of research (one decade or more), or presentation project.
- Assist special-needs students by assigning them roles and tasks that leverage their interests and strengths and allow them

to succeed.

- Work with your Media Specialist, Resource Specialist, Gifted and Talented Coordinator, Journalism teacher, or drama coach to coordinate instruction.

Motivation

- Use of fictional characters encourages students to relate abstract historical facts and figures to human experience—to “make it personal.”
- A choice of presentation projects that provide creative opportunities for personal expression, and demonstrating knowledge invites students to get involved in ways that are personally stimulating and motivating.
- Students with widely varying skills and talents have opportunities to succeed and “shine” as they demonstrate learning.
- The “Where I Stand” optional activity invites students to get personally involved as they form, express, and defend opinions on important issues that interest them and affect their lives.

Flexibility

- *Dynamic Decades* can be used to explore one decade in detail, or survey the entire century through small group research and sharing.
- Single decades can be explored in detail, multiple decades sampled, or the entire century reviewed using various combinations or adaptations of the detailed lesson plans provided.
- Groups can be assigned to maximize interaction of students with diverse backgrounds, skills, and interests, or to bring together students with like abilities or interests related to a particular presentation project.

Ease of Use

- The basic process of research, group interaction, presentation, and expression of personal opinion is straightforward and easy to grasp.
- The Events and Issues Timelines help students orient themselves to their decade(s) and select specific items or events to research, and assist you to assess student work by identifying important events and issues of the decade.

Components

The *Dynamic Decades* package consists of this Teacher Guide and a book of Masters. This teacher guide includes Preparation and Setup instructions, Lesson Plans, and a Composite Character Poster of each fictional character portraying him or her in each decade. The book of Masters includes student assignments and worksheets, presentation guidelines, and assessment rubrics that apply to the entire unit, and a packet for each of the ten decades. Each decade packet is made up of the following components:

- Student Guide
- Suggested Resources
- Events and Issues Timeline: America and the World
- Events and Issues Timeline: Family Life, work, and School
- Events and Issues Timeline: Science and Technology
- Events and Issues Timeline: Key Social Issues
- Events and Issues Timeline: Arts, Sports, and Culture
- Supplemental Resources

Getting Started

Read this Teacher Guide thoroughly to get an understanding of how *Dynamic Decades* works. Then follow these steps to prepare for the unit.

Decisions to Make

1. Will you study one, several, or all decades of the 20th century?
2. Will you use one of the two-week lesson plans, the four-week in-depth lesson plan, or some other schedule and combination of strategies?
3. Will you assign decades, in order to cover each decade you plan to explore, or let student groups choose their decade(s)?
4. If studying all decades, will you assign consecutive pairs of decades to five equal-sized student groups?
5. Will you assign student groups in order to control the mix of students in each group, or let students self-select their groups? Groups of five are ideal, as each student will specialize and be the jigsaw expert in one content area.
6. Will you assign presentation projects, or let student groups choose their own projects?
7. Will you limit student research to resources already available in the classroom or media center, bring in outside resources (e.g., from the public library) for the duration of the unit, or make students responsible for finding their own additional resources from, or beyond, those listed on the decade resource sheets?
8. Will you include the "Where I Stand" assignment, requiring each student to state and defend a personal position on an event or issue of the decade?

Additional Materials Required

- Resources for research, as determined earlier (consider providing multiple copies of key resources and multiple computer stations, especially if you are working with one or few decades at once)
- Computers with Internet access for online research, word processing, Newspaper and Quiz Game design, etc.
- Scenery, props, and costumes as needed for Skits
- Other audiovisual equipment as needed for other Media Presentation formats

- Craft materials as needed for Quiz Games
- Special paper if needed for Newspapers

Preparation and Setup

1. Make copies

You will need copies of the following Masters. Note that groups may want individual copies of some Masters as they assign individual tasks.

Whole-unit Masters (copy once)

- **Student Assignment Form**
- **Presentation Guidelines: Skit**—1 per group
- **Presentation Guidelines: Newspaper**—1 per group
- **Presentation Guidelines: Quiz Game**—1 per group
- **Presentation Guidelines: Media Presentation**—1 per group
- **Student Research Worksheet**—1 per student
- **“Where I Stand” Assignment**—1 per student OPTIONAL
- **Written Work Rubric**—1 per student and/or 1 to post
- **Presentation Rubric**—1 per student and/or 1 to post
- **“Where I Stand” Rubric**—1 per student and/or 1 to post

Decade-specific Masters (copy for each decade of study)

- **Student Guide**—1 per student
- **Suggested Resources**—1 per group
- **Events and Issues Timeline: America and the World**—1 per group and 1 to post
- **Events and Issues Timeline: Family Life, Work, and School**—1 per group and 1 to post
- **Events and Issues Timeline: Science and Technology**—1 per group and 1 to post
- **Events and Issues Timeline: Key Social Issues**—1 per group and 1 to post
- **Events and Issues Timeline: Arts, Sports, and Culture**—1 per group and 1 to post
- **Supplemental Resources**—1 to post

2. Organize

- Determine groups, decades, and project assignments if you plan to make those decisions.
- Prepare a folder for each group. Include all group and individual copies of the appropriate Masters.
- Determine schedule for the unit, including due dates for all phases.

3. Set up project area

- Create a wall display titled “*Dynamic Decades*” and the decade(s) you will study. Add information about your chosen research process, a unit schedule with dates for each phase of the unit, and copies of Masters as appropriate. Identify display space for Newspapers, Quiz Games, and “Where I Stand” position papers if you plan to use that assignment.
- On a table or shelf, arrange classroom or borrowed print and nonprint resources to use during research.
- Provide an area with basic craft materials for use in creating Quiz Games, props or scenery for Skits, or materials for Media Presentations.
- Provide space for storing project materials while in progress.
- Define and prepare presentation space for performing Skits, showing Newspapers or Media Presentations, and demonstrating Quiz Games.

Lesson Plans

The following lesson plans represent the shortest and simplest, and longest and most complex options for using *Dynamic Decades*. Adapt any of them to achieve different combinations of decades and levels of depth and complexity to suit your educational goals.

Single Decade, Two Weeks NOTE: This option does not include the “Where I Stand” personal positions assignment

Week 1, Day 1: Introduce *Dynamic Decades*, organize groups, and determine presentation projects. (Step 1 in Student Guide)

1. Introduce fictional characters Emily Granger and George Reynolds, showing portraits from the **Student Guide**. Explain to students that these characters’ lives exactly spanned the 20th century, and that letters written by each during each decade are included in Student Guides to help students view their decade in a more focused, personal way. They will need to represent these characters and their points of view in their presentation projects. They should keep them in mind as they research, and think about how each of them might be involved in or feel about the events and issues of the period.
2. Explain the purpose of the unit, the general sequence of activities, and your educational goals and expectations.
3. Describe the four presentation project options, and tell students whether you will assign their projects or they will choose them within their groups.
4. Point out the display and project areas.
5. Explain how student work will be assessed. Show and explain the rubrics you will use and point out where they are posted in the classroom.
6. Form student groups (whether assigned or self-selected). Remember, groups of five are best for giving each student ownership of a subject content area, in jigsaw mode.
7. Assign one student in each group to serve as facilitator, keeping records of individual roles and tasks in the group and taking the lead in group work sessions.
8. Hand out folders to each group, containing all necessary documents for the group’s decade. Review the contents.
9. Read the introduction to *Dynamic Decades* from the **Student Guide**, including the letters from the two fictional characters. Remind students

that they will need to represent these characters and their points of view in their presentation projects. They should keep them in mind as they research, and think about how each of them might be involved in or feel about the events and issues of the period. Suggest that George and Emily might be written as characters in a Skit, contribute editorials to a Newspaper, portrayed as contestants in a Quiz Game, or featured as subjects or participants in a Media Presentation. In addition, individual group members might imagine themselves as descendants of Emily or George and approach the decades study as a way to learn about the life of an ancestor.

10. Call attention to the **Suggested Resources** list and explain to students where and how they will access needed resources, including computer terminals and Internet time. Also point out the **Events and Issues Timelines** and encourage students to use them their research, both as overall introductions to their decades and as sources for specific events or items to investigate and incorporate in their group's projects.
11. Explain your expectations for use of class time and/or out-of-class time to complete the project. Review the schedule and assign target dates for each phase of the unit.
12. Determine presentation projects for each group (whether assigned or chosen by the group). Clarify that presentations will be limited to 15–20 minutes. (Adjust time as needed for your number of groups and exact schedule.) If you're revisiting *Dynamic Decades* in separate units during the year, you might require groups to create a different presentation project each time.
13. Have groups assign each student one of the five content areas to research. If necessary, you can assign students more than one content area or double up students in a single content area to adjust for uneven numbers.
14. Clarify and answer questions as needed.

Week 1, Days 2–3: Research (Steps 1–2 in Student Guide)

1. Have groups discuss the specifics of their assignments and presentation projects. Provide assistance as needed.
2. Have individuals research their assigned content areas.

Week 1, Day 4: Jigsaw (Steps 3–4 in Student Guide) Remind students to use their **Events and Issues Timelines** to orient themselves to their decades and find interesting events or items to investigate for inclusion in their presentations.

1. Move students into jigsaw groups by gathering together the content area specialists. Have these new groups share resources and compare notes on what they've learned. Each of these content area specialists groups will meet separately:
 - a. America and the World
 - b. Family Life, Work, and School
 - c. Science and Technology
 - d. Key Social Issues
 - e. Arts, Sports, and Culture
2. Allow time for the content area specialists to complete their individual research, using sources recommended by fellow specialists from other groups.

Week 1, Day 5: Jigsaw, presentation projects (Steps 5–6 in Student Guide)

1. Reconvene the original groups to share reports from each content area specialist.
2. Have groups begin to plan their presentation projects.

Week 2, Days 1–2: Presentation projects (Step 6 in Student Guide)

1. Have groups plan and prepare their presentation projects, following the appropriate guidelines sheets.
2. Monitor groups and check progress as needed. Remind students that presentations will be limited to 15–20 minutes. (Adjust time as needed.)
3. Remind groups to incorporate Emily and George into their projects in ways that represent these characters' lives and perspectives on events and issues of the decade.

Week 2, Days 3–4: Presentations (Step 7 in Student Guide)

1. Conduct Group Presentations

Week 2, Day 5: Presentations, unit review (Steps 7 and 9 in Student Guide)

1. Complete any unfinished group presentations.
2. Discuss the unit to consolidate learning. Compare student responses to the timelines for each content area, mentioning events or issues as appropriate. Here are some sample prompts:
 - What happened in the world in this decade that affected life in

America? How did Americans respond? What events in the U.S. had an important impact beyond our borders?

- How was work life in this decade similar to today? How was it different?
 - How about school life? Family life?
 - What scientific or technological advances made an impact on American life in this decade? Was it a positive or a negative impact?
 - What were some key social issues of the decade? What groups of Americans were at odds with each other? What groups felt they were treated unjustly, and what did they do about it? Are conditions better for those groups now?
 - What was happening in the arts during this decade? Sports? Other aspects of culture? How did cultural events reflect or relate to important issues in American society?
 - Who were some outstanding leaders in American life at this time? What did they accomplish?
 - What about this decade do you think would have been most important to Emily? George? Why?
 - Was American life in this decade very different from today?
 - Do you wish you could have lived then? Why or why not?
3. Ask students for their reactions to the unit. What did they like most? Least? Did they learn a lot from it? What part of the process taught them the most about American life during this period?
 4. Point out the **Supplemental Resources** list for students who wish to learn more.
 5. Remind students when and how unit assessment will be completed.

All Decades, Two Weeks

NOTE: This option requires more out-of-class research and preparation time and does not include the "Where I Stand" personal positions assignment.

Week 1, Day 1: Introduce *Dynamic Decades*, organize groups and determine presentation projects. (Step 1 in Student Guide)

1. Introduce fictional characters Emily Granger and George Reynolds, showing portraits from the Composite Character Posters and **Student Guide**. Explain to students that these characters' lives exactly spanned the 20th century, and that letters written by each during each decade

are included in the Student Guides to help them view their decades in a more focused, personal way. They will need to represent these characters and their points of view in their presentation projects. They should keep these characters in mind as they research, and think about how each of them might be involved in or feel about the events and issues of the period.

2. Explain the purpose of the unit, the general sequence of activities, and your educational goals and expectations.
3. Describe the four presentation project options, and tell students whether you will assign their projects or they will choose them within their groups.
4. Point out the display and project areas.
5. Explain how student work will be assessed. Show and explain the rubrics and point out where they are posted in the classroom.
6. Separate students into their groups (whether assigned or self-selected).
7. Determine the decades (1900–10s, 1920–30s...) each group will study (whether assigned or chosen by the group).
8. Assign one student in each group to serve as facilitator, keeping records of individual roles and tasks in the group and taking the lead in group work sessions.
9. Hand out folders to each group, containing all necessary documents for the group's decades. Review the contents.
10. Call attention to the **Suggested Resources** list and explain to students where and how they will access needed resources, including computer terminals and Internet time. Also point out decade **Events and Issues Timelines** and encourage students to use them in their research, both as overall introductions to their decades and as sources for specific events or items to investigate and incorporate in their group's projects.
11. Explain your expectations for use of class time and/or out-of-class time to complete the project. Review the schedule and assign target dates for each phase of the unit.
12. Determine presentation projects for each group (whether assigned or chosen by the group). Clarify that presentations will be limited to 15–20 minutes. (Adjust time as needed for your number of groups and exact schedule.)
13. Have groups read the introductions to their decades (including letters from the two fictional characters) in their Student Guides. Remind

students that they will need to represent these characters and their points of view in their presentation projects. They should keep them in mind as they research, and think about how each of them might be involved in or feel about the events and issues of the period. Suggest that George and Emily might be written as characters in a Skit, contribute editorials to a Newspaper, portrayed as contestants in a Quiz Game, or featured as subjects or participants in a Media Presentation. In addition, individual group members might imagine themselves as descendants of Emily or George, and approach the decades study as a way to learn about the life of an ancestor.

14. Have groups assign each student one of the five content areas to research. If necessary, you can assign students more than one content area or double up students in a single content area to adjust for uneven numbers.
15. Clarify and answer questions as needed.

Week 1, Days 2–3: Research (Steps 1–2 in Student Guide)

1. Have groups discuss the specifics of their assignments and presentation projects. Provide assistance as needed.
2. Individuals research their assigned content areas. Remind students to use their **Events and Issues Timelines** to orient themselves to their decades and find interesting events or items to investigate for inclusion in their presentations.

Week 1, Day 4: Jigsaw (Steps 3–4 in Student Guide)

1. Move students into jigsaw groups by gathering together the content area specialists. Have these new groups share resources and compare notes on what they've learned. Remind students that they are each researching different decades, so their findings won't be the same. However, they should compare the kinds of events and issues they're finding, note which developments and issues carry over from one time period to the next, and suggest resources that might be useful. Each of these content area specialist groups will meet separately:
 - a. America and the World
 - b. Family Life, Work, and School
 - c. Science and Technology
 - d. Key Social Issues
 - e. Arts, Sports, and Culture

2. Allow time for the content area specialists to complete individual research, using sources recommended by fellow specialists from other groups.

Week 1, Day 5: Jigsaw, presentation projects (Steps 5–6 in Student Guide)

1. Reconvene the original groups to share reports from each content area specialist.
2. Have groups begin to plan their presentation projects.

Week 2, days 1–2: Presentation projects (Steps 6–7 in Student Guide)

1. Have groups plan and prepare their presentation projects, following the appropriate guidelines sheets.
2. Monitor groups and check progress as needed. Remind students that presentations will be limited to 15–20 minutes. (Adjust time as needed.)
3. Remind groups to incorporate Emily and George into their projects in ways that represent their lives and their perspectives on events and issues of the decade.

Week 2, Days 3–4: Presentations (Step 7 in Student Guide)

Conduct group presentations.

Week 2, Day 5: Presentations, unit review (Steps 7 and 9 in Student Guide)

1. Complete presentations.
2. Discuss the unit to consolidate learning. Compare student responses to the timelines for each content area, mentioning events or issues as appropriate. Here are some sample prompts:
 - What key events of the 20th century affected life in America? How did Americans respond? What events in the U.S. had an important impact beyond our borders?
 - How did work life change throughout the century?
 - How about school life? Family life?
 - What 20th century scientific or technological advances made the biggest impact on Americans? Was the impact positive or negative?
 - What were some key ongoing social issues of the century? What groups of Americans were at odds with each other? What groups felt they were treated unjustly, and what did they do about it? Are conditions better for those groups now?

- What were some highlights in the arts during the 1900s? Sports? Other aspects of culture? How did cultural events reflect or relate to important issues in American society?
 - Who were some of the most noteworthy leaders in American life in the 20th century? What did they accomplish?
 - What were some of the biggest changes Emily and George witnessed during their lifetimes? (How had transportation change? Communications? Education? Entertainment? Work life? Food...) What events or issues do you think would have been most important to them? Why?
 - Was life in America better in 1999 than it was in 1900? Explain.
3. Point out the **Supplemental Resources** list for students who wish to learn more.
 4. Remind students when and how unit assessment will be completed.

All Decades, Four Weeks

Week 1, Day 1: Introduce *Dynamic Decades*, organize groups and determine presentation projects (Step 1 in Student Guide)

1. Introduce fictional characters Emily Granger and George Reynolds, showing the Composite Character Posters. Explain to students that these characters' lives exactly spanned the 20th century, and that letters written by each during each decade are included in Student Guides to help them view their decades in a more focused, personal way. Students will need to represent these characters and their points of view in their presentation projects. They should keep them in mind as they research, and think about how each of them might be involved in or feel about the events and issues of the period.
2. Explain the purpose of the unit, the general sequence of activities, and your educational goals and expectations.
3. Describe the four presentation project options, and tell students whether you will assign their projects or they will choose them within their groups.
4. Point out the display and project areas.
5. Explain how student work will be assessed. Show and explain the rubrics and point out where they are posted in the classroom.
6. Separate students into their groups (whether assigned or self-selected).
7. Assign the decades each group will study (whether chosen by you or the group).

8. Assign one student in each group to serve as facilitator, keeping records of individual roles and tasks in the group and taking the lead in group work sessions.
9. Hand out folders to each group, containing all necessary documents for their decades. Review the contents.
10. Call attention to the **Suggested Resources** in the packets and explain to students where and how they will access needed resources, including computer terminals and Internet time. Also point out the **Events and Issues Timelines** and encourage students to use them in their research, both as overall introductions to their decades and as sources for specific events or items to investigate and incorporate in their group's projects.
11. Explain your expectations for students' use of class time and/or out-of-class time to complete the project. Review the schedule and assign target dates for each phase of the unit.
12. Determine a presentation project for each group (whether assigned or chosen by the group). Clarify that presentations will be limited to 15–20 minutes. (Adjust presentation time for your number of groups and exact schedule.)
13. Have groups read the introduction to their decades, including the letters from the two fictional characters, in their Student Guides. Explain to students that they will need to represent these characters and their points of view in their presentation projects. They should keep them in mind as they research, and think about how each of them might be involved in or feel about the events and issues of the period. Suggest that George and Emily might be written as characters in a Skit, contribute editorials to a Newspaper, portrayed as contestants in a Quiz Game, or featured as subjects or participants in a Media Presentation. In addition, individual group members might imagine themselves as descendants of Emily or George, and approach the decades study as a way to learn about the life of an ancestor.
14. Have groups assign each student one of the five content areas to research. If necessary, you can assign students more than one content area or double up students in a single content area to adjust for uneven numbers.
15. Clarify and answer questions as needed.

Week 1, Days 2–5: Research (Steps 1–2 in Student Guide)

1. Have groups discuss the specifics of their assignments and presentation projects. Provide assistance as needed.

2. Allow time for individuals to research their assigned content areas. Remind students to use their **Events and Issues Timelines** to orient themselves to their decades and find interesting events or items to investigate for inclusion in their presentations.

Week 2, Day 1: Jigsaw (Steps 3–4 in Student Guide)

1. Move students into jigsaw groups by gathering together the content area specialists. Have these new groups share resources and compare notes on what they've learned. Remind students that they are each researching different decades, so their findings won't be the same. However, they should compare the kinds of events and issues they're finding, note which developments and issues carry over from one time period to the next, and suggest resources that might be useful. Each of these content area specialist groups will meet separately:
 - a. America and the world
 - b. Family life, work, and school
 - c. Science and technology
 - d. Key social issues
 - e. Arts, sports, and culture
2. Allow time for the content area specialists to complete individual research, using sources recommended by fellow students from other groups.

Week 2, Day 2: Jigsaw (Steps 5–6 in Student Guide)

1. Reconvene original groups for reports from each content area specialist.
2. Have groups begin to plan their presentation projects.

Week 2, Days 3–5: Research (Steps 6–7 in Student Guide)

1. Have groups complete their individual research and meet as needed to direct research toward the specific needs of their presentation project.
2. Monitor groups and check progress as needed. Remind students that presentations are limited to 15–20 minutes.
3. Remind groups to incorporate Emily and George into their projects in ways that represent their lives and their perspectives on events and issues of the decade.

Week 3, Days 1–5: Plan and prepare presentations, “Where I Stand” position papers, and Q&A interviews (Steps 6 and 8 in Student Guide)

Week 4, Days 1–2: Presentations, “Where I Stand” preparation (Steps 7–8 in Student Guide)

1. Conduct group presentations: 1900s–1910s, 1920s–1930s, 1940s–1950s, 1960s–1970s.
2. As time permits, have individuals work on their “Where I Stand” assignments. Assign this as homework if necessary.

Week 4, Day 3: Presentations, “Where I Stand” position papers, and Q&A interviews (Step 8 in Student Guide)

1. Conduct group presentation: 1980s–1990s.
2. Conduct “Where I Stand” Q&A interviews.
3. Post “Where I Stand” position papers or have students read them aloud.

Week 4, Day 4: “Where I Stand” (Step 8 in Student Guide)

1. Conduct “Where I Stand” Q&A interviews.
2. Post “Where I Stand” position papers or have students read them aloud.

Week 4, Day 5: Unit review (Step 9 in Student Guide)

1. Discuss the unit to consolidate learning. Compare student responses to the timelines for each content area, mentioning events, issues, or observations as appropriate. Here are some sample prompts:
 - What key events of the 20th century affected life in America? How did Americans respond? What events in the U.S. had an important impact beyond our borders?
 - How did work life change throughout the century?
 - How about school life? Family life?
 - What 20th century scientific or technological advances made the biggest impact on Americans? Was the impact positive or negative?
 - What were some key ongoing social issues of the century? What groups of Americans were at odds with each other? What groups felt they were treated unjustly, and what did they do about it? Are conditions better for those groups now?

- What were some highlights in the arts during the 1900s? Sports? Other aspects of culture? How did cultural events reflect or relate to important issues in American society?
 - Who were some of the most noteworthy leaders in American life in the 20th century? What did they accomplish?
 - What were some of the biggest changes Emily and George witnessed during their lifetimes? (How had transportation change? Communications? Education? Entertainment? Work life? Food...) What events or issues do you think would have been most important to them? Why?
 - Was life in America better in 1999 than it was in 1900? Explain.
3. Ask students for their reactions to the unit. What did they like most? Least? Did they learn a lot from it? What part of the process taught them the most about American life in the 20th century?
 4. Point out the **Supplemental Resources** list for students who wish to learn more about their decades or other decades of the 20th century.
 5. Remind students when and how unit assessment will be completed.

Whole-Unit Masters

- Research Worksheet
- Presentation Guidelines: Skit
- Presentation Guidelines: Newspaper
- Presentation Guidelines: Quiz Game
- Presentation Guidelines: Media Presentation–1 per group
- “Where I Stand” Assignment
- Written Work Rubric
- Presentation Rubric
- “Where I Stand” Rubric

Research Worksheet

Name: _____

Members of my group:

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

My group's decade(s): _____

My group's presentation project:

- ☐ Skit
- ☐ Newspaper
- ☐ Quiz Game

My content area:

- ☐ America and the World
- ☐ Family Life, Work, and School
- ☐ Science and Technology
- ☐ Key Social Issues
- ☐ Arts, Sports, and Culture

Project Presentation Date: _____

Write 1–2 sentences defining what you need to find out through your research.

List key words and phrases you will use to access the information you need in book indices, chapter headings, and online searches.

Identify likely sources from the **Suggested Resources** list. Add more likely sources, such as teacher recommendations, school library materials, and tips from other content area specialists in your group. Highlight the best sources as you identify them.

Title/Author	Where I can find it			
	<i>Classroom</i>	<i>School Media Center</i>	<i>Internet</i>	<i>Other location</i>

Collect information from sources

For each source, head a sheet of paper with the information you'll need for a bibliography citation and note relevant information. Include page numbers so you can get back to each note easily. Keep your notes with this sheet to document your search.

Assess information

After collecting information, review notes and highlight those that seem most useful for your presentation project.

Organize information

With your presentation project in mind, note your ideas for building your content area into the project.

Which information or ideas seem to fit the project best?

How do these ideas and this information fit together for use in the project?

How would Emily or George have related to this information or these ideas?

How can we use this information to represent them in the project?

Evaluate your research process

Which sources gave the best information for this project?

How could I have conducted my research more efficiently?

Create a bibliography of at least five sources to turn in with this worksheet and your notes.

Presentation Guidelines: Skit

Project:

Write, stage, costume, rehearse, and present an original “American Life” skit.

Project Requirements:

- All group members must participate in both planning and presenting the skit.
- You must set up and present your skit in the time allotted by your teacher (usually 15–20 minutes).
- Include information from all five subject content areas:
 1. America and the World
 2. Family Life, Work, and School
 3. Science and Technology
 4. Key Social Issues
 5. Arts, Sports, and Culture
- Your skit must represent the two fictional characters, Emily Granger and George Reynolds, and their views on or relationships to the issues or events you feature it, in some way.
- Use your imaginations and your powers of reflection and empathy in representing George and Emily. Go beyond the information in their letters from the Student Guide and add your group’s ideas about their perspectives on events and issues, consistent with what you know of them.
- Skits must feature at least two actors—no monologues!

Tips:

- While each group member must participate in presenting the skit, you do not have to write your skit with one role per group member. Members might play two or more small roles as needed, or might participate by designing sets, props or costumes; managing sound or lighting effects; etc. Your skit might feature anywhere from two actors to each member of your group.
- You might write Emily Granger and George Reynolds into your skit as characters, or be creative and figure out your own way to represent them and their perspectives in your skit.
- A background soundtrack will add period authenticity to your skit.
- Avoid anachronistic (chronologically misplaced) details in your skit. For example, don’t use today’s slang, or have 1960s characters talking on cell phones and using laptop computers!

Presentation Guidelines: Newspaper

Project:

Create, explain, read excerpts from, and display a “19____s in Review” newspaper.

Project Requirements:

- All group members must participate in both creating and presenting the newspaper. Each person must submit at least one feature to the paper and be identified with a byline on his or her contribution.
- You must set up and complete your presentation in the time allotted by your teacher (usually 15–20 minutes).
- Include information from all five subject content areas:
 1. America and the World
 2. Family Life, Work, and School
 3. Science and Technology
 4. Key Social Issues
 5. Arts, Sports, and Culture
- Your newspaper must represent the two fictional characters, Emily Granger and George Reynolds, and their views on or relationships to the issues or events you feature in it, in some way.
- Use your imaginations and your powers of reflection and empathy in representing George and Emily. Go beyond the information in their letters from the Student Guide and add your group’s ideas about their perspectives on events and issues, consistent with what you know of them.
- Use at least four different kinds of features in your newspaper—factual news stories, letters to the editor, society news, reporter interviews, advice columns, editorial cartoons, recipes, critical reviews of books, music, plays, artwork, sporting events.

Tips:

- While every member must submit a feature for the newspaper, consider the particular skills and interests of the group as you assign tasks. Use artistic, musical, writing, editorial, or other talents to best advantage.
- You might write letters to the editor or other subjective features as though they came from George Reynolds or Emily Granger. You can also be creative and figure out your own way to represent them and their perspectives in your newspaper.
- Avoid anachronistic (chronologically misplaced) details in your newspaper. For example, don’t use today’s slang, or a microwave oven in a recipe!
- Examine different writing styles in current newspapers, or find archived or online issues of newspapers from your decade for ideas about how to craft different kinds of features. Then, as now, factual news articles told “who, what, when, where, why, and how.”
- It’s OK to design your newspaper on a computer, as long as its appearance and content are authentic to your decade.

Presentation Guidelines: Quiz Game

Project:

Create, explain, and demonstrate a “Fascinating Facts” quiz game.

Project Requirements:

- All group members must participate in both creating and presenting the game. Each group member must help shape the format of the game and submit questions from his or her content area.
- You must set up and complete your presentation in the time allotted by your teacher (usually 15–20 minutes).
- Include information from all five subject content areas:
 1. America and the World
 2. Family Life, Work, and School
 3. Science and Technology
 4. Key Social Issues
 5. Arts, Sports, and Culture
- Your game must represent the two fictional characters, Emily Granger and George Reynolds, and their views on or relationships to the issues or events you mention in it, in some way.
- Use your imaginations and your powers of reflection and empathy in representing George and Emily. Go beyond the information in their letters from the Student Guide and add your group’s ideas about their perspectives on events and issues, consistent with what you know of them.
- Include at least 20 questions, and use at least three different question formats in your game—“quick facts,” short answers, multiple choice, matching, fill-in-the-blank, or longer answer formats that involve some explanation or opinions. For at least five of the questions, one from each content area, follow up with a short explanation of the event or fact that gives background and makes an interesting anecdote.

Tips:

- Have group members respond to questions about content areas outside their specialty, or involve the whole class as contestants in the game. You’ll demonstrate learning better if you don’t let group members answer their own questions!
- Use visual images and actual examples of items mentioned in your questions, along with words to add interest.
- You might use “actors” to portray Emily Granger and George Reynolds as contestants on a show featuring your game. You can also be creative and figure out your own way to build them and their perspectives into the game.

- Avoid anachronistic (chronologically misplaced) details in the wording of your questions and format of the game. For example, don't use today's slang, or feature videoconferencing in a game show!
- It's OK to create game materials on a computer, as long as their appearance and content are authentic to your decade.
- Recorded background music will add period authenticity. You could also use recorded clips from music, movies, broadcasts, etc. in your game questions.
- Dress in period clothing for your presentation.
- Create a historically accurate game show set.

Presentation Guidelines: Media Presentation

Project:

Write, produce, and share an original media presentation in a medium that was introduced or popular during the decade(s) you are studying. For example, a Nickelodeon theater “short” film for 1900–1909, a radio program for the 1920s, scenes for a TV sitcom for the 1950s, a music video for the 1970s, a PowerPoint presentation for the 1980s, or scenes for a “decade in review” Web site for the 1990s.

Project Requirements:

- All group members must participate in both planning and producing the presentation. Identify the contributions of each group member in a “credits” section of your presentation.
- You must complete your presentation in the time allotted by your teacher (usually 15–20 minutes).
- Include information from all five subject content areas:
 1. America and the World
 2. Work, School, and Family Life
 3. Science and Technology
 4. Key Social Issues
 5. Arts, Sports, and Culture
- Your presentation must represent the two fictional characters, Emily Granger and George Reynolds, and their views on or relationships to the issues or events you feature in it, in some way.
- Use your imaginations and your powers of reflection and empathy in representing George and Emily. Go beyond the information in their letters from the Student Guide and add your group’s ideas about their perspectives on events and issues, consistent with what you know of them.

Tips:

- While each group member must participate in planning and production, you do not have to feature each group member in the final presentation. Members might participate by performing; designing sets, props or costumes; managing sound or lighting effects; handling the equipment; etc.
- You might write Emily Granger and George Reynolds into your presentation as subjects, performers, or participants. You can also be creative and figure out your own way to represent them and their perspectives in your presentation.
- View or listen to similar media presentations from your decade for ideas about how to craft different aspects or sections of your media piece.

- Avoid anachronistic (chronologically misplaced) details in your presentation. For example, don't use today's slang, or mention fax or e-mail communications in a presentation about the 1930s!
- It's OK to design your presentation on a computer, as long as its appearance and content are authentic to your decade.

“Where I Stand” Assignment

Name: _____

Decade _____

An important part of studying any historical period—especially one as full of controversy as the decades of the 20th century—is relating to the period and what it has to teach you by forming and defending opinions about it. This assignment requires you to take a stand on a key issue or event from your study of your decade(s). It's as easy as 1-2-3.

1. Choose an issue

Choose a key event or issue affecting life in America during your decade(s). It may be something you researched in your assigned content area, or something else you feel strongly about. Identify your event or issue here:

2. Take a stand

Figure out your position on this event or issue, and the facts and reasons that support it. It's not enough to feel strongly. You have to thoughtfully consider the reasons for your convictions, and know why you disagree with opposing views on the issue. State your opinion and organize your thinking about it here:

3. Speak out!

This is your chance to be heard. You might even convince some classmates to share your opinion. You have two options. You can either write a two- to four-page position paper or you can develop a set of at least six questions and answers about the issue. If you write the paper, you will either read it aloud or post it in the classroom. If you choose the Q&A format, your teacher or an assigned student will pose your questions to you and you will respond in an oral interview format. Either way, include these elements:

- A clear definition of the issue or event
- A clear statement of your opinion
- At least three reasons, backed by reliable facts and sources, why you believe what you do (list at least three sources that support your opinion)
- At least three points an opponent of your opinion might make about the issue
- Convincing responses to the three opposing points

Written Work Rubric

	4 Exceeds Expectations	3 Meets Expectations	2 Incomplete	1 Unacceptable
Worksheets	I completed all worksheets and followed all directions.	I completed all worksheets and followed directions.	Some of my worksheets are incomplete; some directions are not carefully followed.	My worksheets are incomplete; directions are not followed.
Search Strategy	My search strategy was logical, extensive, and creative.	My search strategy was logical and adequate.	My search strategy lacked clarity and comprehensiveness.	I didn't demonstrate a clear search strategy.
Sources	I consulted more than the required number of sources.	I consulted the required number of sources.	I consulted fewer than the required number of sources.	I consulted significantly fewer than the required number of sources.
Notes	My notes are highly detailed and relevant.	My notes are adequately detailed and relevant.	My notes are few and unfocused.	My notes are minimal and unfocused.
Bibliography	My citations are complete and follow accepted format.	My citations are complete and follow accepted format.	My citations are incomplete and not appropriately formatted.	My citations are incomplete and inconsistently or inappropriately formatted.
Interest and Effort	My written work shows evidence of sincere interest and extensive effort.	My written work shows evidence of interest and effort.	My written work shows little evidence of interest and effort.	My written work shows almost no evidence of interest and effort.
Neatness and Grammar	My written work is neat, legible, and grammatically correct.	Most written work is neat, legible, and grammatically correct.	Some written work is grammatically incorrect and hard to read.	Most written work is grammatically incorrect and hard to read.

Cooperative Group Rubric

	4 Exceeds Expectations	3 Meets Expectations	2 Incomplete	1 Unacceptable
Overall Understanding of Period	We showed excellent understanding of the period with no anachronisms.	We showed good understanding of the period without anachronisms.	We showed some understanding of the period with few anachronisms.	We showed little understanding of the period with some anachronisms.
Information from Content Areas	We included significant information from each content area.	We included adequate information from each content area.	We included some information from most content areas.	We failed to include information from each content area.
Creativity	We conveyed information in creative, engaging ways.	We conveyed information in interesting ways.	Parts of our presentation conveyed information in interesting ways.	We failed to convey information in creative, engaging ways.
Use of Fictional Characters	We represented fictional characters creatively and with empathy.	We represented fictional characters believably and with understanding.	Our representation of fictional characters lacked understanding of their views.	We failed to represent fictional characters in our presentation.
Participation of Individuals	Each group member's participation was important and evident.	Each group member's participation was evident.	Not all group members participated.	Only one or two group members participated.
Group Interest and Effort	Presentation demonstrated sincere group interest and extensive effort.	Presentation showed evidence of group interest and effort.	Presentation showed little evidence of group interest and effort.	Presentation showed almost no evidence of group interest and effort.
Use of Allotted Time	We used allotted time to best advantage.	We used allotted time well.	We could have used allotted time better.	We did not use allotted time well.

“Where I Stand” Rubric

	4 Exceeds Expectations	3 Meets Expectations	2 Incomplete	1 Unacceptable
Position	I presented a clear, well-supported opinion.	I completed a clear, well-supported opinion.	I didn't present a clear opinion or didn't support my opinion effectively.	I didn't present a clear opinion or failed to support my opinion.
Oral Presentation (Optional)	My presentation was clear, confident, and convincing.	My presentation was clear and logical.	My presentation was unclear and not always logical.	My presentation was hard to understand and illogical.
Sources	I consulted more than the required number of sources.	I consulted the required number of sources.	I consulted fewer than the required number of sources.	I consulted significantly fewer than the required number of sources.
Opposing Arguments	I presented opposing arguments clearly and fairly, and refuted them effectively.	I presented and refuted opposing arguments adequately.	I didn't present and refute opposing arguments adequately.	I omitted opposing arguments or failed to refute them.
Use of Facts	I used facts with obvious care regarding source, accuracy, and bias.	I used facts with some evidence of care regarding source, accuracy, and bias.	I used facts with little evidence of care regarding source, accuracy, and bias.	I used facts with no evidence of care regarding source, accuracy, and bias.
Conviction and Effort	My work showed sincere conviction and extensive effort.	My work showed personal interest and effort.	My written work showed little personal interest and effort.	My written work shows almost no personal interest and effort.
Neatness and Grammar	My written work is neat, legible, and grammatically correct.	My written work is fairly neat, legible, and grammatically correct.	Some written work is grammatically incorrect and hard to read.	Most written work is grammatically incorrect and hard to read.

The 1900s

- Student Guide
- Suggested Resources
- Events and Issues Timeline: America and the World
- Events and Issues Timeline: Family Life, Work, and School
- Events and Issues Timeline: Science and Technology
- Events and Issues Timeline: Key Social Issues
- Events and Issues Timeline: Arts, Sports, and Culture
- Supplemental Resources

Dynamic Decades: America in the 1900s

Student Guide

Dear Student,

Meet Emily Granger and George Reynolds. These fictional characters, whose lives exactly spanned the 20th century, will accompany you as you explore life in America in the first decade of the 1900s. Emily is a woman of European ancestry, who grew up in a rural Alabama town. George is African American, and lived his life in the Chicago area. Born in 1900, both are children in this decade. Through letters, which you find later in this Student Guide, they will share bits of their stories and offer personal perspectives on events and issues of the period. As you study the 1900s, keep in mind how Emily and George might have felt about or been involved in the events and issues you encounter. Try to see things through their eyes so that in your unit project you can reflect their experiences and perspectives.

In this unit, you will be part of a group, researching a particular aspect of the decade from 1900–1909, sharing your findings with your group, and working cooperatively to plan and present a project that demonstrates in a creative way what you’ve learned. You may be asked to form, and defend, a personal position on a key event or issue of the decade.

The 1900s

Remember all the excitement surrounding the start of the new millennium? Some of the same kind of excitement was in the air as the 20th century dawned. A new century! Think of the possibilities!

The decade from 1900–1909 was dramatic and exciting. It has been described as “the decade age of extremes” and “the American decade.” It was a time of unprecedented opportunities. The nation was emerging from isolation and rapidly becoming a major world power, both economically and militarily. Immigrants poured into the United States in record numbers, looking for freedom or opportunity, and bringing their varied beliefs and customs with them. Charismatic young President Teddy Roosevelt dominated the decade with his boundless energy and progressive ideas. As always, progressive thought produced a vigorous reaction of provincialism, controversy, and protest. Global empires, like the British Empire, were both flourishing and stimulating strong nationalistic movements for independence in occupied countries. America, during this decade, aggressively pursued its own interests in Hawaii, Cuba, Panama, Guam, the Philippines, and Puerto Rico.

Thanks to the Industrial Revolution and the harnessing of electricity, new inventions were popping up every day. A spirit of modernity was in the air. Local and regional customs made way for a truly nationwide popular culture, made possible as railroads, telephones, automobiles, and radio transported people and ideas rapidly from coast to coast. Groups of people, notably women and laborers, actively campaigned for social influence and improved conditions. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) formed to try to improve conditions for America’s blacks, who were suffering under Jim Crow laws and ongoing violence. And, for the first time, the federal government got involved in protecting and controlling natural resources,

“reclaiming” western lands through irrigation and creating the Forest Service and the first national wildlife refuge.

Now let’s see what our two fictional characters have to say about life in the first decade of a brand new century.



Emily Granger

Emily Maude (Grantham) Granger, born January 1, 1900; died December 31, 1999. Emily’s grandparents came to America from Germany in the 1880s. Her father was a U.S. Army Lieutenant and her mother a homemaker; Emily was the youngest of five children. Her family lived in the small coal mining town of Blocton, Alabama. Emily’s father died in France in 1918, fighting for the Allies in World War I. Emily graduated from the local high school and married her high school sweetheart, Joseph Granger, in 1919. The Grangers had four daughters. Emily was a homemaker until her husband died in 1942 while serving as a soldier in World War II. She went to work at a factory in Birmingham to support the war effort. Emily lost her job when the soldiers returned after the War. She lived out her life in

Birmingham with her oldest daughter, enjoying a large family of children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren.

George Reynolds

George Abraham Reynolds, born January 1, 1900; died December 31, 1999. George was African American, the son of a Pullman porter and a seamstress; the grandson of slaves. He had an older brother and a younger sister. George was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. He graduated from the University of Chicago in 1922, and pursued a career as a newspaper reporter for a publication written for African Americans. George married Francine Norris in 1926. He and his wife had a son and two daughters. He retired in 1972; his wife died in 1978.



December 12, 1908

Dear Cousin Rachel,

I hope this letter reaches you in time for Christmas. I made the bookmark just for you. I hope you like it! I put Dorothy and Toto on it because I know you love The Wonderful Wizard of Oz too. I'm so excited about Christmas this year. I've been hinting about a Teddy Bear. I'm wild about them, and it seems like a patriotic gift too, in honor of our President. Don't you think they're precious? What do you want for Christmas? I wish we could spend the holiday with you all and Grandfather Grantham, but Papa says it's too expensive to travel, with all of us. I'm so sad! I'm dying to go to the nickelodeon and see a real motion picture. The closest one here is in Birmingham, and we never get to go there. Don't tell, but Papa said maybe we could go into town and call you on the telephone from the general store on Christmas day! I've never talked on a telephone. Isn't it just a marvel? But please don't tell—you have to act surprised!

Our Christmas program is coming up. I get to be an angel! The school looks so pretty, with a little tree full of popcorn and berry garlands and artwork everywhere. After the play, everyone will sing Christmas carols and we'll serve hot cider and cookies. Even the mayor will be there. This is just my favorite time of the year.

Our teacher told us that Mr. William Taft, who will be our new President, weighs over 300 pounds! She used me as an example, and said that it would take five of me to balance him on a teeter-totter! Can you imagine!

I'm the best in my class at spelling, but I'm not so good at arithmetic. There's a new girl in my class. She's from Italy. That's in Europe; our teacher showed us on a globe. Her father came to work in the mines. She seems nice, I guess, but she can't talk English. She's the opposite of me. She's good at arithmetic and bad at reading and spelling. Mrs. Tufte says we can help each other. But how can we do that when we don't talk the same language? How are you doing in school this year?

My brothers send their best regards to Tom and Tim, and say they have big plans for your visit next summer. I can't wait. I know you're only a little younger than me, but it will be nice to not be "baby Emily" for a little while.

Happy Christmas to you, Uncle Fred, Aunt Sally, and even Tom and Tim! Write me back and tell me all about your Christmas, if I haven't already heard about it on the telephone!

Love and kisses,
Emily

January 5, 1909

Dear Grandma Reynolds,

Thank you for the book you sent for my birthday. I heard that Peter Pan is a great story. Daddy says he'll read it out loud to all of us, so it will be a family adventure. I had a good birthday. My friend Barton came for supper and Mama made us hamburgers and Coca-Cola, cake and ice cream. Daddy loves ice cream cones! He says he didn't have them when he was a boy because they hadn't been invented yet.

It seems a lot of things weren't invented when Daddy was a boy. In school, we just learned about Mr. Thomas Alva Edison, and all the things we have now because of inventors like him. I might want to be an inventor when I grow up. Isn't that a good ambition? Mama says I should invent a way for clothes to stretch to fit children as they grow! I've been growing quite a lot lately, and she has trouble keeping up. But I reminded her that, if clothes grew with children, she might be out of business. She tells me not to be so sassy!

What do you think of Jack Johnson, Grandma? I think he's the best! But Daddy says he'd do more good if he saved his wildness for the boxing ring and behaved himself better the rest of the time. I don't know about you, but I don't think any black man gets to be heavyweight champion of the world by behaving himself!

But here's something Daddy and I agree on. Daddy wants to get us a Model T automobile! Mama says why would we want one of those noisy, smelly things when we can ride the street car or the "L" anywhere we need to go, but I'm all for it. Can't you just see us, Grandma, flying down the street in our own Model T? Daddy might even let me drive it. I'd give you a ride, for sure, when you come to visit.

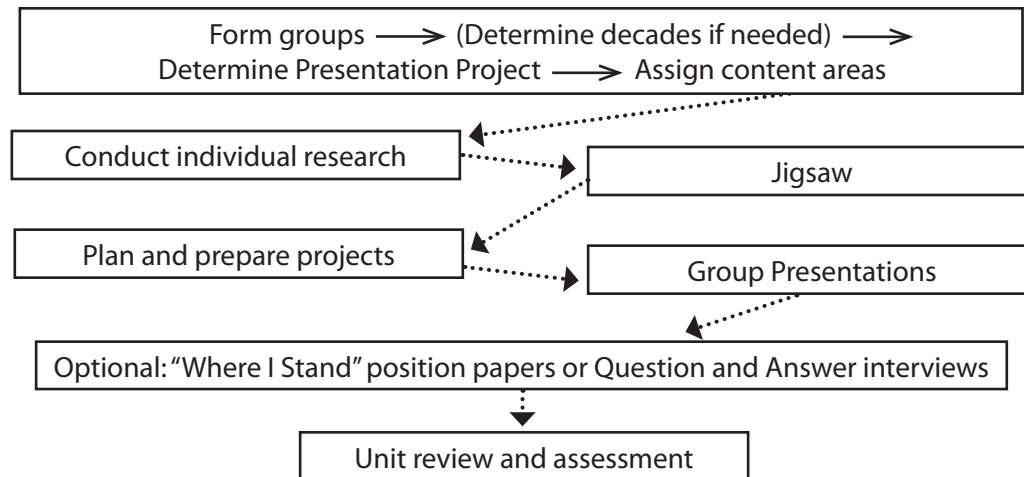
I got a cold right after my birthday. Mama says it's too many sweets, but I think it's from the snowball fight Barton and I had before supper. But don't worry, Grandma. I've been taking aspirin, and I feel just fine.

Thanks again for the book. I'll write and tell you how it was after we finish reading it.

Your loving grandson,
George

Now that you've been introduced to Emily, George, and the 1900s, you're ready to begin. This section will take you through the project, step by step. Enjoy your exploration of this *Dynamic Decade*!

Here's an overview.



Steps to follow:

1. Form your group. Write the names of your group members here.

2. Will you study one or more than one decade? Write your group's decade(s) here.

3. Which project will your group prepare and present? Circle one.

- Write, stage, costume, rehearse, and present an original "American Life in the 1900s" skit
- Create, explain, read excerpts from, and display a "Decade in Review" newspaper
- Create, explain, and demonstrate a "Fascinating Facts" quiz game

4. Which content area(s) will you research for your group? Circle it or them.

- America and the world
- Family life, work, and school
- Science and technology
- Key social issues
- Arts, sports, and culture

5. Use resources from the Suggested Resources list or others recommended by your teacher to research your content area(s). Follow the Big6 research process or another process explained by your teacher. Use the Research Worksheet to help you find, record, and organize information. NOTE: You will turn in your Research Worksheet and your notes, so keep them neat and readable!

6. Meet in Jigsaw groups with other specialists in your content area. Exchange ideas and take notes on your Research Worksheet or additional paper.
7. Check out new sources or ideas from your content specialist meeting.
8. Report on your content area to your original group.
9. Plan and prepare your presentation project, fine tuning and supplementing your individual research as needed for the project. Be sure to build all the requirements from your Project Guidelines sheet into your project.
10. Present your group's project to the class.
11. (Prepare and present your "Where I Stand" position paper or Question & Answer interview, if assigned.)
12. Participate in the unit review and turn in your worksheet and notes.

Dynamic Decades: 1900s

America and the World

1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909
World's Fair in Paris	President McKinley assassinated	Roosevelt threatens intervention, ends international debt crisis	Wright Brothers take their famous flight	Japan and Russia at war	Roosevelt mediates end to Japan/Russia war	President Roosevelt wins Nobel peace prize	Baden-Powell founds the Boy Scouts	Olympics in London	Peary and Henson reach North Pole
Hawaii becomes U.S. territory	Teddy Roosevelt becomes president		Panama gains independence with U.S. support	World's Fair, St. Louis, MO	Industrial Workers of the World union created	First official presidential trip abroad: Roosevelt to Panama Canal	Roosevelt sends "Great White Fleet" to show off naval power	William Taft elected president	World's Fair in Seattle, WA
	Marconi completes first transatlantic radio transmission			Summer Olympics in St. Louis, MO	World's Fair in Portland, OR	U.S. occupies Cuba	Immigration peaks at 1.2 million		
	Pan American Exposition in Buffalo, NY			Roosevelt reelected					
	U.S. takes control of the Philippines								
	U.S. Steel becomes the world's largest industrial company								

KEY ISSUES

- Massive immigration brings almost nine million new, mainly European, residents to the U.S.
- The U.S. transforms from an agricultural to an industrial economy.
- Advances in science and technology improve international communications.
- America emerges from isolation as a major industrial and military power, with President Roosevelt leading.
- Worldwide earthquakes and volcanoes result in devastating loss of life and destruction of property.
- Global imperialism is ongoing; the U.S. pursues interests in the Philippines, Cuba, Guam, Puerto Rico, Panama, and Hawaii.
- Empire building generates a backlash of nationalism around the world.
- American democracy stimulates political reform around the world.
- World's fairs and expositions and the modern Olympic games bring the world together.

Dynamic Decades: 1900s

Family Life, Work, and School

1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909
Gold Standard Act stabilizes U.S. currency	Men wear frock coat, waistcoat, and striped slacks to the office	National Education Association is formed	NYC public school #1 students represent 25 nationalities	"Campbell Kids" are introduced to promote canned soup	Sears & Roebuck catalog offers ready-made clothes	Kellogg's Corn Flakes are first sold	Hoover vacuum cleaner is invented	First "Model T" Ford is produced	Electric toaster is introduced
Average pay is 22 cents per hour; average workweek is 59 hours	Women's dresses are restrictive, padded, leaving only faces and hands uncovered			Paper cups are invented to avoid the spread of disease	Rotary Club is founded	Coca-Cola company replaces cocaine with caffeine in their soft drink	Stock market panic occurs, many banks fail	Electric iron is introduced	
8000 cars in U.S., 10 million bicycles, 200,000 miles of railroad track	First College Board entrance exams are held				Almost all school principals and district superintendents are men		Alain Locke is the first African American to win the Rhodes Scholarship		
1.3 million telephones in the U.S.	Safety razor invented in WI						Washing machines on sale		
Electric range is introduced							Suffragettes rally in NY		

KEY ISSUES

- The Industrial Revolution and electricity bring labor-saving advances to the public.
- Automobiles create new jobs and leisure opportunities.
- Americans embrace modern ideas and new inventions.
- Education becomes increasingly systematized and regulated.
- Discrimination against women, immigrants, and minorities is ongoing.
- Women seek expanded rights, including the right to vote.
- Urban schools struggle to integrate many immigrant students.
- Advertising increasingly impacts consumer choices.

Dynamic Decades: 1900s

Science and Technology

1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909
Edison invents the alkaline battery	Oil is discovered in Texas	Congress passes laws to regulate vaccines, antibiotics	Wright Brothers take their famous flight	New York subway opens	Einstein's theory of relativity is introduced	Congress passes food safety laws	American Albert Michelson wins Nobel physics prize	First "Model T" Ford is produced	Peary and Henson reach the North Pole
1.3 million telephones in U.S.	Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research is founded			Phonograph records replace wax cylinders	Use of "wonder drug" aspirin spreads around world	First radio program broadcast, from MA	American Association for Cancer Research is founded	World's largest skyscraper built in NYC	Electric toaster is introduced
8,000 cars in U.S., 10 million bicycles, 200,000 miles of railroad track!	Marconi completes first transatlantic radio transmission			Paper cups are invented to avoid the spread of disease	National Audubon Society is incorporated		Washing machines on sale	Electric iron introduced	Belgian-American chemist Baekeland develops multi-use plastic
Kodak introduces the Brownie camera	Electric streetcars are introduced in London				Mosquitoes blamed for yellow fever outbreak in LA			First blood transfusion is performed	
U.S. Army Dr. Walter Reed connects mosquitoes to yellow fever	First electric hearing aid is patented							First mental health organization is founded	

KEY ISSUES

- Huge advances in transportation (railroads, automobiles, flight) begin to "shrink" the world.
- Advances in communication also begin to shrink the world.
- The Industrial Revolution and electricity bring labor-saving advances to the public.
- Advances in medical science improve life and health.
- Photography revolutionizes entertainment, record-keeping

Dynamic Decades: 1900s

Key Social Issues

1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909
United Mine Workers strike in PA	Socialist Party of America is formed	Congress votes to reclaim land in the West via irrigation	Congress creates Dept. of Commerce and Labor	Roosevelt reelected on "Square Deal" promises	Almost all school principals and district superintendents are men	San Francisco schools segregate Japanese students	"Typhoid Mary" imprisoned to prevent the spread of disease	FBI is established	NAACP is founded
1 out of 12 American marriages end in divorce	Roosevelt hosts black leader Booker T. Washington at the White House	First U.S. worker's compensation law, MD	Supreme Court rules Congress controls Indian lands	Woman arrested for smoking in NYC	National Audubon Society is incorporated	Congress passes food safety laws	Suffragettes rally in NY	Congress passes Child Labor Law	Congress authorizes income taxes
	Carnegie gives 2.2 million for NY public libraries		Pelican Island is the first national wildlife refuge	National Child Labor Committee is formed	Mosquitoes blamed for yellow fever outbreak in LA	Race riots occur in Atlanta	Alain Locke is first African American to win Rhodes Scholarship	Lewis Hine hired to photograph child labor abuses	
			DuBois' <i>The Souls of Black Folk</i> is published			National Forests Commission is set up	Roosevelt bans Japanese immigration		
							OK becomes 46th state		
							Immigration peaks at 1.2 million		

KEY ISSUES

- Populations begin shifting from farms to cities.
- A huge influx of immigrants encounters opportunity and widespread discrimination.
- Persistent, systematic racism is expressed in Jim Crow laws, lynching.
- Americans embrace modern ideas and new inventions.
- Roosevelt's "Progressive Era"
- Resistance to progressivism
- Controversy over unsanitary conditions in meat processing plants
- Growth of "big business"
- Monopolies threaten competition, are battled in legislature and courts
- Unfair labor practices, growth of labor unions and labor regulation
- Controversy over use of child labor
- Women seek expanded rights, including the right to vote.
- Minorities seek expanded rights
- Resistance to growing rights and influence for women, immigrants, and minorities
- Efforts to conserve natural resources

Dynamic Decades: 1900s

Arts, Sports, and Culture

1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909
Big, feathered hats are popular for women	First national Bowling Championship in Chicago	Helen Keller's <i>The Story of My Life</i> is published	Movie <i>The Great Train Robbery</i> is released	Summer Olympics in St. Louis, MO	First "Nickelodeon" theater in PA	Sinclair's <i>The Jungle</i> reveals unsafe meat processing	Skirts get shorter and are tapered	Song "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" is published	Joplin's "Maple Leaf Rag" is popular
Jack London's <i>The Call of the Wild</i> is published	Women's dresses are restrictive, padded, with only faces and hands uncovered	First Rose Bowl football game is played	Emma Lazarus' poem for Statue of Liberty is put in place	Cy Young pitches first "perfect" baseball game	American May Sutton wins Wimbledon	San Francisco earthquake, fires	Ziegfeld Follies opens in NY	Summer Olympics in London	W. C. Handy writes first blues song
Summer Olympics in Paris (Women participate)		Pepsi-Cola Company is founded	<i>Redbook</i> magazine is founded	Phonograph records replace wax cylinders	First black newspaper, <i>Chicago Defender</i> , is published	First radio broadcast, from MA		Jack Johnson is the first black world heavy-weight boxing champ	
Kodak introduces Brownie camera		Ping-Pong craze in U.S.	First U.S. hockey team wins the International Hockey League championship	Ice cream cone is invented	Roosevelt holds conference on violence in college football	First animated cartoon released		First Hollywood film studio is established	
<i>Buffalo Bill's Wild West</i> show opens in NYC		First "Teddy Bears" are sold	First "World Series" baseball competition is held	J.M. Barrie's <i>Peter Pan</i> is published	First pizzeria opens in NY's Little Italy	Summer Olympics in Athens		"New York Realist" art show depicts slums and poverty	
Baum's <i>The Wonderful Wizard of Oz</i> is published			DuBois's <i>The Souls of Black Folk</i> is published	Hamburgers become popular after the St. Louis World's Fair		Kellogg's corn flakes first sold			

KEY ISSUES

- Organization and regulation of sports begins.
- Fashions begin transitioning to less formal and less restrictive styles.
- Advances in transportation and communications create a truly national "pop culture."
- Pop music is dominated by ragtime; the blues are introduced.
- Moving pictures become accessible and popular.
- Published works impact social issues and reinforce national pop culture.
- There's an explosion of "fun foods" and convenience foods.

Suggested Resources

Print

1900–1920: Linen & Lace by Sue Mee (20th Century Fashion series). Gareth Stevens, 2002. ISBN 0836825985.

The 1900s by Deanne Durrett (American History by Decade series). Kidhaven Press, 2003. ISBN 0737715464.

The 1900s: The First Decade by Margaret Sharman (Take Ten Years series). Raintree Steck-Vaughn, 1994. ISBN 0811430731.

The 1900s: From Teddy Roosevelt to Flying Machines by Stephen Feinstein (Decades of the 20th Century series). Enslow, 2006. ISBN 0766026302.

An Age of Extremes 1870–1917 (A History of Us series, Volume 8) by Joy Hakim. Oxford University Press, 2002. ISBN 0195153340.

Bowling, Beatniks, and Bell-Bottoms: Pop Culture of 20th Century America edited by Sara Pendergast and Tom Pendergast. Thomson Gale, 2002 (Volume 1). ISBN 0787656763.

The Century for Young People by Peter Jennings, Todd Brewster, and Jennifer Armstrong. Doubleday Books for Young Readers, 1999. ISBN 0385327080.

Life on Ellis Island by Renee C. Rebman (Way People Live series). Lucent Books, 2000. ISBN 1560065338.

Oxford Children's Book of the 20th Century: A Concise Guide to a Century of Contrast and Change by Stewart Ross. Oxford University Press, 1999. ISBN 0195214889.

UXL American Decades—1900–1909 by Tom & Sara Pendergast & Rob Nagel. UXL, 2003. ISBN 0787664553.

A World Contender: Americans on the Global Stage 1900–1912 by Eric Schwartz (How America Became America series). Mason Crest, 2005. ISBN 1590849116.

Nonprint

Scott Joplin: His Complete Works by Scott Joplin, performed by Richard Zimmerman. Bescol, 1994 (Compact Disk). ASIN B000001RR2. Any volume of this multi-volume set gives a taste of Joplin's brilliant, toe-tapping ragtime compositions.

Web Sites

- *Archer Audio Archives: The 1900s: 1900–1909*, <http://archer2000.tripod.com/1900.html>. An excellent brief chronology of the decade with audio clips of popular music of the period.
- *Great White Fleet*, <http://www.greatwhitefleet.org/gwf/index.html>.
- *AmericanPresident.org*, <http://www.americanpresident.org/history>. Check out biographies of Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and William Taft.
- *Digital History*: <http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/modules>. Check out the modules on Progressivism and Immigration.
- *Joe Hill: Early 1900s Labor*, <http://www.kued.org/productions/joehill/story/index.html>. A good introduction to labor issues of the decade, with photos and video clips.
- *Touring Turn-of-the-Century America: Photographs from the Detroit Publishing Company 1880–1920*, <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/detroit/dethome.html>. Use the keyword or subject search options to find pictures on just about any aspect of the decade.
- *Twentieth Century Inventions 1900–1999*, <http://inventors.about.com/library/weekly>. Year-by-year highlights with links to further information.
- *WWW-VL: HISTORY: USA: 1900–1909*, <http://vlib.iue.it/history/USA/ERAS/20TH/1900s.html>. An umbrella site offering many links arranged in the form of an outline of the decade.
- *The Wright Stuff*, <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/wright/wrights.html>. Explore the ambitions and achievements of the Wright Brothers.

Supplemental Resources

Fiction

Aftershocks by William Lavender. Harcourt, 2006. ISBN 0152058826. Strong-willed Jessie pursues her dream of becoming a doctor, despite nearly impossible obstacles, in early 1900s. The San Francisco earthquake, prejudice against Asian immigrants, and the role of women all play a part in this dramatic story.

Coast to Coast with Alice by Patricia Rusch Hyatt. Carolrhoda Books, 1997. ISBN 1575050749. Teen Minna Jahns chronicles her journey with Alice Ramsey, the first woman to drive across the country, from New York to San Francisco, in 1909.

Dark Water Rising by Marian Hale. Henry Holt, 2006. ISBN 0805075852. It's 1900, and Seth's family has just moved to Galveston, Texas, when a terrible hurricane strikes. This moving coming-of-age story is both good character drama and faithful in its representation of the devastating storm that killed 8000 people.

Double Crossing by Eve Tal. Cinco Puntos Press, 2005. ISBN 0938317946. In 1905, Raizel and her father flee persecution of Jews in the Ukraine to make a new life for their family in America. Her father's uncompromising beliefs and lack of practical skills leave the family's fate to Raizel's resourcefulness. Their experience of Ellis Island and lots of eastern European cultural tales enhance the story.

Dragonwings by Laurence Yep. HarperCollins, 1975. ISBN 0060267380. Newbery Honor Book. In 1903, eight-year-old Moon Shadow leaves China to join his father in America, and experiences discrimination, unlikely friendships, deep loyalty, and honor betrayed and fulfilled.

Earthquake at Dawn by Kristiana Gregory. Gulliver Books, 2003. ISBN 015204681X. Photographer Edith Irvine is about to embark on a once-in-a-lifetime journey to show her work at the 1906 World Exhibition in Paris, when she is caught up in the disastrous San Francisco earthquake. Based on actual events, this novel features lots of accurate detail and cameo appearances by real-life celebrities.

Gib and the Gray Ghost by Zilpha Keatley Snyder. Random House Children's Books, 2001. ISBN 0440415187. When twelve-year-old Gib leaves the orphanage to work as a farmhand on a Nebraska ranch in 1909, he hopes his natural talent with horses will earn him a place in the family and a sense of belonging.

How I Became an American by Karin Gundisch. Cricket Books, 2001. ISBN 0812648757. German immigrant Johann tells of his family's experiences immigrating to America in 1902. Based on real-life personal letters, the story has the ring of truth.

I Am Lavina Cumming by Susan Lowell. Milkweed Editions, 2005. ISBN 1571316558. Ten-year-old Lavina moves from Arizona to California in 1905, to be raised by her aunt. Interesting descriptions of different lifestyles and the San Francisco earthquake.

January 1905 by Katharine Boling. Harcourt Children's Books, 2004. ISBN 0152051198. Alternating voices of twins Pauline and Arlene tell a story of mill town life and child labor in 1905.

The Jungle by Upton Sinclair. Signet Classics, 2001. ISBN 0451528042. This novel about a young immigrant's experiences of appalling conditions in the slaughterhouses of Chicago in the early years of the 20th century shocked the public and resulted in legislation to protect food safety.

Land of Dreams by Joan Lowry Nixon. Gareth Stevens, 2001. ISBN 0836828100. Kristen hopes to find freedom and opportunity when her family moves to America from Sweden in 1902. But her life in a Swedish immigrant community in Minnesota is much like life in the old country, and she chafes at the restrictions imposed on girls.

A Northern Light by Jennifer Donnelly. Harcourt, Inc, 2003. ISBN 0152053107. This story is shaped around a real-life murder in upstate New York in 1906. Mattie Gokey dreams of college and a writing career. But her poor family needs her at home, and her father has little sympathy with dreams. The story moves back and forth in time, interweaving Mattie's earlier life, leading up to a painful choice between two futures.

O. Henry: Graphic Classics, Vol. 11 by O. Henry, edited by Tom Pomplun. Eureka Productions, 2005. ISBN 0974664820. Several O. Henry short stories are presented in graphic-novel format. O. Henry wrote compelling stories about America during his lifetime. He died in 1910.

The Octopus: A Story of California by Frank Norris. Penguin Classics, 1994. ISBN 0140187707. The San Joaquin Valley in 1900 is the scene of this compelling story of what farmers trying to defend their land and lifestyle from the corrupt designs of the Pacific and Southwestern Railroad.

The President's Daughter by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley. Random House Children's Books, 2006. ISBN 0440419956. This quick, easy read is fun for its spirited portrayal of the experiences of the daughter of a man who was, at once, a rowdy, unconventional father and one of the most dynamic and influential of all American presidents.

Race for the Sky: The Kitty Hawk Diaries of Johnny Moore by Dan Gutman. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2004. ISBN 0689845543. Johnny Moore was a real fourteen-year-old who did, indeed, get involved with two "dingbatters," Wilbur and Orville Wright, determined to fly. A light, quick read with lots of evocative detail.

Song of Sampo Lake by William Durbin. Random House Children's Books, 2002. ISBN 0440228999. Matti Ojala and his family have come to a mining town in Minnesota from Finland, to find opportunity. When a terrible mining accident causes them to pursue their dream of homesteading, Matti has a chance to move out from his older brother's shadow and prove himself.

The Song of the Molimo by Jane Cutler. Farrar Straus Giroux, 1998. ISBN 0374371415. Twelve-year-old Harry expects to spend his summer reveling in the wonders of the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair. But he gets involved with an anthropological exhibit—specifically, the unfair treatment of the African Pygmies. Based on Fair history, the story takes a fascinating look at the impressive achievements and unenlightened attitudes of the time.

The Teacher's Funeral: A Comedy in Three Parts by Richard Peck. Dial Books, 2004. ISBN 0803727364. When their teacher dies in August, students in Hominy Ridge, Indiana, are guiltily gleeful. With luck, it will mean no more school. But it's not to be, and the new teacher could be worse than the old! Peck's signature wit shines in this hilarious, heartwarming story of life in a one-room school in 1904.

Nonfiction

Airborne: A Photobiography of Wilbur and Orville Wright by Mary Collins. National Geographic, 2003. ISBN 0792269578.

Kids at Work: Lewis Hine and the Crusade against Child Labor by Russell Freedman. Clarion Books, 1998. ISBN 0395797268. Freedman tells the story of Lewis Hine, teacher-turned-photographer who dedicated his life to educating the public about the evils of child labor through his photos.

Life: Our Century in Pictures for Young People, edited by Richard B. Stolley. Little, Brown and Company, 2000. ISBN 0316815896.

Meet Me in St. Louis: A Trip to the 1904 World's Fair by Robert Jackson. HarperCollins, 2004. ISBN 006009267X.

Our American Century: Events that Shaped the Century by the editors of Time-Life Books. Time-Life, 1998. ISBN 0783555024.

The Souls of Black Folk by W.E.B. DuBois. Penguin Classics, 1996. ISBN 014018998X. One of the greatest African American intellectuals reflects on the history and condition of black Americans in 1903. Still amazingly insightful and timely.

Theodore Roosevelt: Larger than Life by Matt Donnelly. Linnet Books, 2003. ISBN 0208025103.

Visual Timeline of the 20th Century by Simon Adams. Dorling Kindersley, 1996. ISBN 0789409976.

Web Sites

- *Media History Timeline: The 1900s*, <http://www.mediahistory.umn.edu/time/1900s.html>. Very detailed chronology of noteworthy events.
- *A Science Odyssey: Then + Now*, <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aso/thenandnow>. A chronology with a focus on advances in science and technology.
- *Southern Music Network*, <http://www.southernmusic.net/1900.htm>. An interesting overview the decade's music.

The 1910s

- Student Guide
- Suggested Resources
- Events and Issues Timeline: America and the World
- Events and Issues Timeline: Family Life, Work, and School
- Events and Issues Timeline: Science and Technology
- Events and Issues Timeline: Key Social Issues
- Events and Issues Timeline: Arts, Sports, and Culture
- Supplemental Resources

Dynamic Decades: America in the 1910s

Student Guide

Dear Student,

Meet Emily Granger and George Reynolds. These fictional characters, whose lives exactly spanned the 20th century, will accompany you as you explore life in America in the 1910s. Emily is a woman of European ancestry, who grew up in a rural Alabama town. George is African American, and lived his life in the Chicago area. Born in 1900, both are youths in this decade. Through letters, which you will find later in this Student Guide, they will share bits of their stories and offer personal perspectives on events and issues of the period. As you study the 1910s, keep in mind how Emily and George might have felt about or been involved in the events and issues you encounter. Try to see things through their eyes, so that in your unit project you can reflect their experiences and perspectives.

In this unit, you will be part of a group, researching a particular aspect of the 1910s, sharing your findings with your group, and working cooperatively to plan and present a project that demonstrates in a creative way what you've learned. You may be asked to form, and defend, a personal position on a key event or issue of the decade.

The 1910s

In 1910, the United States was the richest country in the world. In fact, this decade has been called "the boom decade." Immigrants and children provided cheap labor. Businesses were developing ways to increase efficiency and productivity, as illustrated by Henry Ford's radical innovations of assembly line production and the \$5.00 work day. When World War I began in Europe, the U.S. supplied many nations with needed goods while they focused on the conflict. Once America entered the war, American industries shifted to producing war materials. Both modes strengthened the already thriving U.S. economy.

But prosperity came at a price, and was not shared by all. Unfair trade practices and labor abuses, characteristic of the previous decade, continued and escalated; so did the backlash against union activity and government regulation. Living and working conditions for the poorest of the poor were often appalling. The disastrous Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire of 1911 drew dramatic public attention to the horrors of child labor and dangerous conditions in factories.

Advances in science and technology produced a flood of new labor-saving devices and innovations in transportation and communications for those who could afford them. Popular culture became firmly established as the entertainment industry thrived. For the nation's "haves," life was good. But the "have nots" grew increasingly impatient for their share of prosperity, or just simple justice. Jim Crow laws proliferated and the Ku Klux Klan resumed activity. Race riots were common. Blacks migrated to Northern cities in large numbers to escape discrimination in the South. Labor strikes intensified. Increased union activity caused concern about a possible communist revolution in the U.S. Meanwhile, Americans passed constitutional amendments that prohibited the sale of alcohol and granted women the right to vote.

While America's participation in the War rallied a divided nation, the turbulence of it all left many, as the 1920s approached, longing for a sense of peace and a return to normalcy.

Now let's see what our two fictional characters have to say about life in the 1910s.



Emily Granger

Emily Maude (Grantham) Granger, born January 1, 1900; died December 31, 1999. Emily's grandparents came to America from Germany in the 1880s. Her father was a U.S. Army Lieutenant and her mother a homemaker; Emily was the youngest of five children. Her family lived in the small coal mining town of Blocton, Alabama. Emily's father died in France in 1918, fighting for the Allies in World War I. Emily graduated from the local high school and married her high school sweetheart, Joseph Granger, in 1919. The Grangers had four daughters. Emily was a homemaker until her husband died in 1942 while serving as a soldier in World War II. She went to work at a factory in Birmingham to support the war effort. Emily lost her job when the soldiers returned after the War. She lived out her life in Birmingham with her oldest daughter, enjoying a large family of children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great -great grandchildren.

George Reynolds

George Abraham Reynolds, born January 1, 1900; died December 31, 1999. George was African American, the son of a Pullman porter and a seamstress; the grandson of slaves. He had an older brother and a younger sister. George was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. He graduated from the University of Chicago in 1922, and pursued a career as a newspaper reporter for a publication written for African Americans. George married Francine Norris in 1926. He and his wife had a son and two daughters. He retired in 1972; his wife died in 1978.



April 28, 1915

Dear Cousin Rachel,

How are you all? I'm already getting excited about seeing you this summer. We will have so much to talk about! Have you read The Secret Garden yet? I adore it! I borrowed my friend Gretchen's copy. Why don't you wait and we'll read it together while you're here? Gretchen just got a Victrola, too—she's so lucky!—and she says we can come over and listen to records. She has lots of ragtime and Irving Berlin. You'll like her. Her father works with Papa and they live nearby, so we get to spend lots of time together.

Mama and I had a bit of a row again. Actually, it was more with Roger this time. He is determined to join the new Coast Guard, and she is dead set against it. She's worried about the war in Europe. Even though President Wilson was elected saying he'd keep us out of the war, Mama thinks he's changing his tune. She's afraid we'll go to war and Papa will have to go, and she says the Coast Guard is too much like the Army for her liking. Papa, of course, thinks Roger should just join the Army and be done with it. I think Mama's afraid she could lose them both, and I understand that. But Roger's a year older than me, and I think he should be able to make his own decision. So I backed him up, as I always do, and made her angry. We've been arguing quite a bit lately. I don't mean to upset her, but she seems so old-fashioned and she treats us like babies. The older ones get to do anything they want. It's not fair! Does Aunt Sally worry about war, too, and whether Tom and Tim might have to go?

But I really don't like fighting with Mama. I'm trying to think of something extra nice to do for Mother's Day. I've decided I like this new holiday. It's a way to make peace with her without giving in! So what should it be? I might make her a picture frame, since Papa's been taking pictures like crazy on his new 35 mm camera. What do you think?

One bad thing about Roger going to the Coast Guard. Remember his friend Joseph? Well, I don't know if anything will come of it, but I've sort of liked him for the longest time, and lately he's been talking more to me when he comes to see Roger. I think maybe he likes me, too! But he and Roger cooked up this Coast Guard scheme together, so he might be leaving too. I would really miss them both. Is there anybody there that you like? If there is, write and tell me about him! Soon! I love getting your letters.

Love and kisses,
Emily

April 20, 1912

Dear Colin,

Thanks for your letter. I'm glad that our Boy Scout troops decided to be pen pals! It's interesting hearing about things in New York City. I hope to go there some day and see the skyscrapers. I can't imagine a building that tall!

Did you hear that the Titanic sank in the Atlantic Ocean? I'm sure you did. It was the biggest, fanciest ship ever, and they said it couldn't ever sink. Some people think it was bad luck to say that, and that's why it happened. Anyway, my father knew someone who was on it! A man who rides his train all the time was bringing his family back from Europe on it. He and Daddy talked about it on the train. And now Daddy doesn't even know if he's alive! He's been watching the lists of survivors, but he hasn't seen his name. It's strange to sort of know someone who might have drowned, and his whole family too.

At school, we had to write a paper about where we'd like to travel if we could go anywhere in the country we wanted to. I thought about writing about New York City, because of you. But instead, I wrote about Arizona. I thought it would be great to see the desert, and what's still like "the old West," and the newest state in the United States, too. Do you think they still have saloons, and outlaws, and gunfights there? I'd like to ride a bucking bronco. Have you ever? Probably not, in New York City! Where would you go if you could visit anywhere in America?

Do you get to drive your new Ford much? I remember that you're crazy about cars. Daddy lets me drive ours sometimes, but not in the city. Now that it's spring again, I'll get to drive it more when we go for picnics in the country. I like to drive fast! Don't you? Maybe we can drive in that big race in Indianapolis when we get older. Who do you think will win this year? My money's on Ray Harroun again. He's the champ!

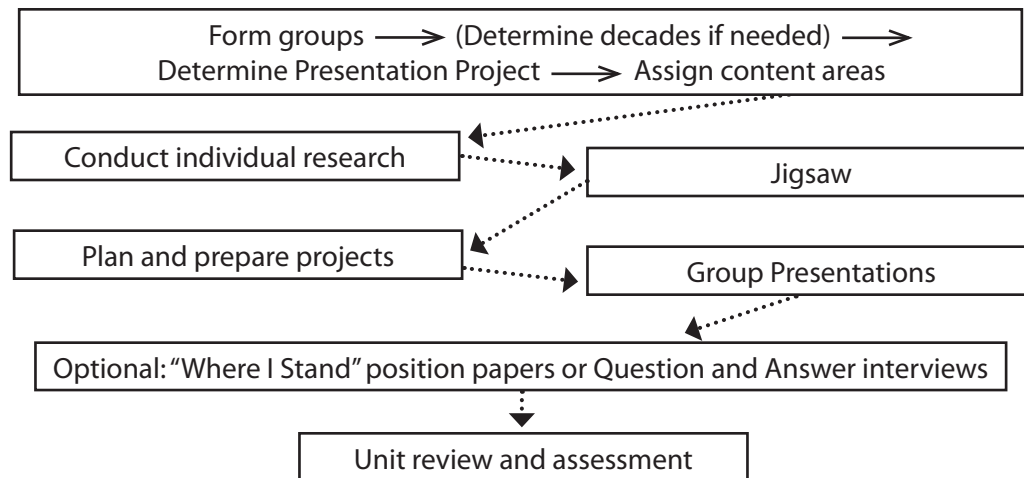
Write back soon. We tell about our letters at Scout meetings, but we don't have to read them. So you can say anything you want.

Your pen pal,
George

P.S. Have you tried Oreo cookies? They're the best! You take them apart and dunk them in your milk.

Now that you've been introduced to Emily, George, and the 1910s, you're ready to begin. This section will take you through the project, step by step. Enjoy your exploration of this *Dynamic Decade*!

Here's an overview.



Steps to follow:

1. Form your group. Write the names of your group members here.

2. Will you study one or more than one decade? Write your group's decade(s) here.

3. Which project will your group prepare and present? Circle one.

- Write, stage, costume, rehearse, and present an original "American Life in the 1910s" skit
- Create, explain, read excerpts from, and display a "Decade in Review" newspaper
- Create, explain, and demonstrate a "Fascinating Facts" quiz game

4. Which content area(s) will you research for your group? Circle it or them.

- America and the world
- Family life, work, and school
- Science and technology
- Key social issues
- Arts, sports, and culture

5. Use resources from the Suggested Resources list or others recommended by your teacher to research your content area(s). Follow the Big6 research process or another process explained by your teacher. Use the Research Worksheet to help you find, record, and organize information. NOTE: You will turn in your Research Worksheet and your notes, so keep them neat and readable!

6. Meet in Jigsaw groups with other specialists in your content area. Exchange ideas and take notes on your Research Worksheet or additional paper.
7. Check out new sources or ideas from your content specialist meeting.
8. Report on your content area to your original group.
9. Plan and prepare your presentation project, fine tuning and supplementing your individual research as needed for the project. Be sure to build all the requirements from your Project Guidelines sheet into your project.
10. Present your group's project to the class.
11. (Prepare and present your "Where I Stand" position paper or Question & Answer interview, if assigned.)
12. Participate in the unit review and turn in your worksheet and notes.

Dynamic Decades: 1910s

America and the World

1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919
U.S. richest country in world		Woodrow Wilson president	New York Senator Root wins Nobel Peace Prize	Panama Canal opens	Mexican revolutionaries attack NM	President Wilson reelected	Congress declares war on Germany	Germany surrenders, WWI ends	Versailles Treaty, League of Nations established
		Olympics in Sweden		WWI begins in Europe	Germans sink <i>Lusitania</i> , 128 Americans aboard	Tanks used in war for first time	First black fighter pilot, American Eugene Bullard, flies for France because of racism in U.S.	Nearly 10 million men join U.S. army	U.S. Senate refuses to ratify Versailles Treaty
		U.S. Marines protect Americans in Nicaragua		T. W. Richards wins Nobel Chemistry prize	Germans use poison gas as weapon of war	U.S. troops enter Mexico to retaliate NM attack	Nearly 10 million men join U.S. army	Worldwide flu epidemic kills 1.5 million Americans	President Wilson suffers stroke
		French American Alexis Carrel wins Nobel prize for medicine					Immigration Act bans Asian workers, requires literacy test		American jazz craze spreads to Europe
		S.O.S. adopted as global distress signal							

KEY ISSUES

- U.S. is richest country in the world
- Immigration laws tighten as prejudices against immigrants grow
- U.S. first tries to stay neutral, then enters World War I "to make the world safe for democracy"
- End of war leaves losing countries crippled, resentful
- President Wilson prominent in promoting "Fourteen Points," advocating for League of Nations
- U.S. Congress fails to support Wilson's global vision
- U.S. increasingly imports, exports aspects of arts and culture

Dynamic Decades: 1910s

Family Life, Work, and School

1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919
Boy Scouts of America founded	Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire	Girl Scouts of America founded	Gulf Company opens first gas station	Ford initiates \$5.00/day pay	First taxis in U.S. cities	Nearly 2 million children working	Congress declares war on Germany	Margaret Sanger jailed for promoting birth control	Prohibition Act passed
Illinois outlaws "hobble skirts" as dangerous	Air conditioning invented	Electric blanket invented	Ford pioneers assembly line mass production	New Jersey sets minimum wage for women	Metal lipstick tube invented	Child Labor laws passed	Nearly 10 million men join U.S. army	1 million women work in U.S. factories	Widespread movement to establish kindergartens nationwide
80% of African Americans live in south			Zipper invented	Mother's Day established	Margaret Sanger tried for writing about birth control	American Federation of Teachers founded		Worldwide flu epidemic kills 1.5 million Americans	Food mixer introduced
			Refrigerators available for home use	First deodorant advertisements	Victrola record player introduced				
				Model T costs \$440					
				Tinkertoys introduced					

KEY ISSUES

- Many Americans make their own food and clothes, value practicality over sophistication or fashion
- New inventions promise easier, more comfortable life
- Importance of early education recognized
- Businesses strive for greater efficiency, productivity
- Women's role and influence increasingly in the public eye
- Labor abuses—especially child labor—cause growing controversy
- Labor union grow to oppose abuses
- Blacks flee racism in the South to northern cities in "Great Migration"
- Women temperance advocates succeed in achieving prohibition of the sale of alcohol
- Women fight for, achieve constitutional amendment to gain the vote
- U.S. enters World War I "to make the world safe for democracy"
- Economy booms as U.S. businesses provide goods needed by allies and for war effort

Dynamic Decades: 1910s

Science and Technology

1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919
Edison invents kinetophone	Lane markers introduced on roads	<i>Titanic</i> sinks	Zipper invented	Panama Canal opens	First taxis in U.S. cities	First refrigeration of blood for transfusions	Birdseye company introduces "frozen food"	Worldwide flu epidemic kills 1.5 million Americans	Motorized lawn mower introduced
Halley's comet near earth	Fingerprints used to solve crimes	Vitamins A and B discovered at Yale	American Cancer Society organized	First trans-continental phone line	Victrola record player introduced	Windshield wipers introduced on cars			First municipal airport, Tucson, AZ
	Electric starter for cars demonstrated	French American Alexis Carrel wins Nobel prize for medicine	Refrigerators available for home use	Traffic light introduced in OH					Radio Corporation of America (RCA) founded
	American archeologist Hiram Bingham discovers ruins at Machu Picchu	Electric blanket invented		Hand dryer invented for public bathrooms					AT&T introduces dial telephones
	Air conditioning invented			T. W. Richards wins Nobel Chemistry prize					Food mixer introduced
				Mayo Clinic opens in MN					
				35 mm camera developed					

KEY ISSUES

- "Unsinkable" *Titanic* goes down in Atlantic Ocean
- Health, safety issues of great concern
- New inventions promise easier, more comfortable life
- Ongoing advances in transportation, communications continue to "shrink world"
- World War I produces tanks, poison gas, gas masks, etc.

Dynamic Decades: 1910s

Key Social Issues

1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919
Illinois outlaws "hobble skirts" as dangerous	Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire	New Mexico becomes 47th state	California law bars Japanese immigrants from owning land	Mother's Day established	Margaret Sanger tried for writing about birth control	Jeannette Rankin first woman elected to Congress	Congress declares war on Germany	Worldwide flu epidemic kills 1.5 million Americans	Prohibition Act passed
Race riots as Jack Johnson keeps boxing title	Harriet Quimby first woman pilot licensed in U.S.	Arizona becomes 48th state	Federal Reserve Act changes banking	Congress gives organized labor right to strike	Chicago mayor outlaws sale on alcohol on Sundays	National Park Service established	First black fighter pilot, American Eugene Bullard, flies for France because of racism in U.S.	1 million women work in U.S. factories	President Wilson suffers stroke
National Urban League founded	Antitrust suit wins against Standard Oil Company	Cotton mill workers strike in MA	Women march for vote in Washington D.C.	Mayo Clinic opens in MN	U.S. Coast Guard established	Child Labor laws passed	Nearly 10 million men join US army	Margaret Sanger jailed for promoting birth control	Race riots in Chicago and across country
80% of African Americans live in South		U.S. Children's Bureau established	First income tax payments		Ku Klux Klan reactivates in GA	Nearly 2 million children working	Immigration Act bans Asian workers, requires literacy test		Constitutional amendment give women vote
		Julia Lathrop first woman to head federal agency	Jewish Anti-Defamation League founded		Labor leader Joe Hill executed	American Federation of Teachers founded	10,000 African Americans march in NYC protest lynching		Widespread movement to establish kindergartens nationwide
		Ábdu'l-Bahá Abbás brings Bahá'í Faith to America	United Mine Workers of America strike in CO				Selective Services Act authorizes draft		

KEY ISSUES

- Racial tensions escalate; Ku Klux Klan resurgence
- Labor abuses—especially child labor—cause growing controversy
- Labor union grow to oppose abuses
- Blacks flee racism in the South to Northern cities in "Great Migration"
- Increasing labor activism creates fear of communist revolution in America ("Red scare")
- Temperance advocates succeed in achieving prohibition of the sale of alcohol
- Women fight for, achieve, constitutional amendment to gain the vote
- U.S. enters World War I "to make the world safe for democracy"
- Women enter the work force in record numbers, replacing soldiers in factories
- Economy booms as U.S. businesses provide goods needed by allies and for the war effort

Dynamic Decades: 1910s

Arts, Sports, and Culture

1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919
Boy Scouts of America founded	Hodgson's <i>The Secret Garden</i> published	Oreo cookies sold	LifeSavers candy sold	Charlie Chaplin's introduces "Little Tramp"	Jess Willard wins heavyweight boxing title from Johnson	"Raggedy Ann" stories and doll invented	First jazz recording made	Airmail service started	White Sox bribed to lose World Series
Race riots as Jack Johnson keeps boxing title	First Indianapolis 500 auto race	Girl Scouts of America founded	First crossword puzzle published	First full length movies released	Victrola record player introduced	Hollywood moviemaking fifth largest U.S. industry	Ouija Board invented	Babe Ruth joins NY Yankees	
Illinois outlaws "hobble skirts" as dangerous	Irving Berlin's "Alexander's Ragtime Band" record-breaking musical hit	Olympics in Sweden	Internal Exhibition of Modern Art opens in NYC	American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers founded		Professional Golfer's Association formed, first PGA tournament	Dadaists exhibit artwork in NY	"Sir Barton" first horse to win triple crown	
Dr. Pepper introduced	First movie fan magazine, <i>Photoplay</i> , published	Picture postcards popular	Bra invented	Isadora Duncan's dancers perform in NYC			George M. Cohan composes WWI song "Over There"	Jack Dempsey wins heavyweight boxing title	
Picasso's First one-man show opens in NYC	Association of American Painters and Sculptors founded	Native American Jim Thorpe big winner at Olympics	Jewish Anti-Defamation League founded	<i>Vanity Fair</i> magazine introduced			First <i>World Book Encyclopedia</i> published	Ringling Brothers, Barnum & Bailey circuses combine	
		Ballroom dance craze		First <i>Tarzan</i> book published			Pulitzer prizes established		

KEY ISSUES

- Sports characterized by controversies involving racism, corruption
- Sports move toward greater organization and regulation
- Film industry blossoms, producing features and gaining economic power
- Radio and phonographs make popular music (ragtime, jazz, etc.) widely available
- American public experiences (with varying reactions) modern art movement
- U.S. increasingly imports, exports aspects of culture

Suggested Resources

Print

1900–1920: Linen & Lace by Sue Mee (20th Century Fashion series). Gareth Stevens, 2002. ISBN 0836825985.

The 1910s by Deanne Durrett (American History by Decade series). Kidhaven Press, 2004. ISBN 0737717467.

The 1910s by Margaret Sharman (Take Ten Years series). Raintree Steck-Vaughn, 1991. ISBN 081143074X.

The 1910s: From World War I to Ragtime Music by Stephen Feinstein (Decades of the 20th Century series). Enslow, 2001. ISBN 0766016110.

An Age of Extremes 1870–1917 (A History of Us series, Volume 8) by Joy Hakim. Oxford University Press, 2002. ISBN 0195153340.

Bowling, Beatniks, and Bell-Bottoms: Pop Culture of 20th Century America edited by Sara Pendergast and Tom Pendergast. Thomson Gale, 2002 (Volume 1). ISBN 0787656763.

The Century for Young People by Peter Jennings, Todd Brewster, and Jennifer Armstrong. Doubleday Books for Young Readers, 1999. ISBN 0385327080.

Oxford Children's Book of the 20th Century: A Concise Guide to a Century of Contrast and Change by Stewart Ross. Oxford University Press, 1999. ISBN 0195214889.

The Titanic by Daniel E. Harmon. Chelsea House, 2000 (Great Disasters and Their Reforms series). ISBN 0791052656.

UXL American Decades—1900–1909 edited by Tom Pendergast and Sara Pendergast. UXL, 2003. ISBN 0787664561.

War, Peace, and All That Jazz 1918–1945 (A History of Us series, Volume 9) by Joy Hakim. Oxford University Press, 2006. ISBN 0195307380.

With Courage and Cloth: Winning the Fight For a Woman's Right to Vote by Ann Bausum. National Geographic, 2004. ISBN 0792276477.

World War I by Linda S. George. Benchmark Books, 2002 (Letters from the Homefront series). ISBN 0761410961.

Nonprint

The Great War: An Evocation in Music and Drama through Recordings Made at the Time. Pearl, 1992 (Compact Disk). 4-8. This recording of World War I music features familiar war songs (“Over There” and “It’s a Long Way to Tipperary”) along with popular songs of the time (“Pack up Your Troubles” and “How Ya Gonna Keep ‘Em Down on the Farm?”).

World War I in Color directed by Jonathan Martin. Capital Entertainment, 2005 (DVD documentary). ASIN: B0007N4AW4. Actor Kenneth Branagh narrates this documentary series featuring computer colorized footage from “the war to end all wars.”

Web Sites

- *American Cultural History: 1910–1919*, <http://kclibrary.nhmccd.edu/decade10.html>
- *The American Experience: Influenza 1918*, <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/influenza/peopleevents/index.html>. Comprehensive coverage of the worst epidemic in U.S. History.
- *Archer Audio Archives: The 1910s: 1910–1919*, <http://archer2000.tripod.com/1910.html>. An excellent, brief chronology of the decade with audio clips of popular music of the period.
- *AmericanPresident.org*, <http://www.americanpresident.org/history>. Check out the biography of Woodrow Wilson.
- *A Biography of America: A Vital Progressivism*, <http://www.learner.org/biographyofamerica/prog19/index.html>. Compares the approaches to improving conditions for African Americans of Booker T. Washington and W. E. B. DuBois.
- *Digital History*, <http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/modules>. Take a look at the module on World War I.
- *Joe Hill: Early 1900s Labor*, <http://www.kued.org/joehill/early/index.html>. A good introduction to labor issues of the period, with photos and video clips.
- *Library of Congress: American Leaders Speak: Recordings from World War I and the 1920 Election*, <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/nfhhtml>. Sound recordings of 59 speeches by political leaders of the decade.
- *Touring Turn-of-the-Century America: Photographs from the Detroit Publishing Company 1880–1920*, <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/detroit/dethome.html>. Use keyword or subject search options to find pictures on just about any aspect of the decade.
- *Twentieth Century Inventions 1900–1999*, <http://inventors.about.com/library/weekly>. Year by year highlights with links to further information.
- *WWW-VL: HISTORY: USA: 1910–1919*, <http://vlib.iue.it/history/USA/ERAS/20TH/1910s.html>. An umbrella site offering many links arranged in the form of an outline of the decade.

Supplemental Resources

Fiction

After the Dancing Days by Margaret I. Rostkowski. HarperTrophy, 1988. ISBN 0064402487. When 13-year-old Annie's father returns from the Great War, he leaves his prestigious medical practice to treat wounded soldiers. Annie is drawn to a wounded, bitter young man who challenges her view of the realities of war and heroism.

All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Maria Remarque. Ballantine Books, 1987. ISBN 0449213943. While told from the perspective of a young German soldier rather than an American one, this classic novel about the horrors of war is a must-read.

Ashes of Roses by Mary Jane Auch. Laurel Leaf, 2004. ISBN 044023851X. 7+. Sixteen-year-old "greenhorn" Rose must care for her younger sister in New York City when the rest of their family returns to Ireland. Accounts of immigrants' miserable travel conditions, experiences at Ellis Island, and the Triangle fire come alive.

The Big Burn by Jeanette Ingold. Harcourt Paperbacks, 2003. ISBN 015204924X. In the summer of 1910, a series of wildfires destroyed large sections of Idaho and Montana. This suspenseful story follows the course of the fires through the eyes of three pairs of characters. Lizbeth and her Aunt Celia are homesteaders in inferno's path, Samuel and Jarrett are brothers working as a ranger and a firefighter, and Seth and Abel are soldiers in an all-black regiment called in to keep order and battle the blaze.

Cheaper by the Dozen by Frank B. Gilbreth, Jr. and Ernestine Gilbreth Carey. Harper Perennial Modern Classics, 2002. ISBN 006008460X. This hilarious story of 12 children and their efficiency-expert parents in the early 1900s is full of fun and period detail.

Chief Sunrise, John McGraw, and Me by Timothy Tocher. Cricket Books, 2004. ISBN 0812627113. Fifteen-year-old Hank runs away from his abusive father and joins forces with a Seminole Indian baseball player in this fast-paced sports story set in 1919.

Christy by Catherine Marshall. Avon, 2006. ISBN 0380001411. This classic novel of adventure, faith, and romance features 19-year-old Christy, who leaves a comfortable, privileged life to teach in the Smoky Mountains. It's 1912, and Christy can't imagine the tests and revelations that await her in this place of poverty, superstition, stubborn pride, and surprising honor.

Eleanor Hill by Lisa Williams Kline. Front Street, 1999. ISBN 0812627156. Spunky Eleanor wants to escape her small North Carolina town and see the world. As she ventures into life in the city, interacts with relative and friends old and new, and makes her way home to make peace with her family, she encounters many issues, inventions, and trends of the period.

Faraway Summer by Johanna Hurwitz. HarperTrophy, 2000. ISBN 0380732564. Dossi Rabinowitz, a Russian immigrant from New York City, spends part of the summer of 1910 visiting the Mead family in Vermont through an organization called the Fresh Air Fund. Dossi has never experienced farm life; the Meads have never met a Jew or lived with big city ways.

Color Me Dark: the Diary of Nellie Lee Love, the Great Migration North by Patricia McKissack. Scholastic, Inc., 2000. ISBN 0590511599. Nellie Lee's family joins the post World War I "Great Migration" of blacks to Northern cities to escape racism in the South. An interesting look at both racist attitudes of whites and class stratification within the African American community.

Good-bye Billy Radish by Gloria Skurzynski. Simon & Schuster Children's, 1996. 6-8. Ukranian American Billy Radish and his best friend Hank live in a steel mill town during World War I. This sometimes-harsh story evokes timeless joys and sorrows and explores issues of evolving culture, the immigrant experience, the dangers of the mill, and the deadly flu epidemic of 1918.

Joshua's Song by Joan Hiatt Harlow. Aladdin, 2003. ISBN 0689855427. After losing his father in the 1918 flu epidemic, Joshua must leave his private school and help his mother make ends meet. The life of Boston "newsies" and the 1919 Molasses Flood are featured.

Matthew Unstrung by Kate Seago. Dial, 1998. ISBN 0803722303. When Matthew suffers a breakdown from the stress of trying to please his demanding, rigid clergyman father, he is taken to a mental hospital. The grim picture of Matthew's family life and the treatment of mental illness in 1910 contrasts with the gentleness of his rescuer, "black sheep" brother Zack, and the healing power of Colorado ranch life.

One of Ours by Willa Cather. University of Nebraska Press, 2006. ISBN 0803214316. Presenting a different perspective on World War I from titles like *All Quiet on the Western Front*, this Pulitzer prize-winning classic tells the story of a Nebraska farm boy who finds meaning and purpose in the War.

The Second Decade: Voyages by Dorothy and Tom Hoobler. The Milbrook Press, 2000. ISBN 0761376019. This *Century Kids* series title follows the Aldrich family as they take in an immigrant child laborer, dabble with spiritualism using a Ouija board, present a play about the fight for women's suffrage, and lose loved ones in the sinking of the *Titanic*.

SOS Titanic by Eve Bunting. Harcourt Paperbacks, 1996. ISBN 0152013059. Barry dreads traveling to America on the *Titanic*. He is going to join parents he hardly knows, and fears shipmates from his town who have threatened him. But by the time disaster strikes, Barry is painfully aware of the differing chances of survival between his privileged class of travelers and his enemies in steerage, and tries to do something about it.

A Time for Courage: The Suffragette Diary of Kathleen Bowen by Kathryn Lasky. Scholastic, Inc., 2002. ISBN 043944571X. This *Dear America* series title traces the thoughts and feelings of 13-year-old Kathleen as impending war and her family's activism in the women's suffrage movement disrupt her life.

Unbroken by Jesse Haas. HarperTrophy, 2001. ISBN 0380733137. Set in Vermont in 1910, this story depicts rural life during the period. Harriet loses her mother in an accident, and must go to live with her cold, disapproving Aunt on a farm. The dramas that play out as the two clash and Harriet works to train a colt demonstrate the power of unbroken spirits.

Washington Avalanche, 1910 by Cameron Dokey. Simon Pulse, 2000. ISBN 0671036041. In this historical romance, Ginny flees an unhappy family situation by boarding a train west. The trip becomes an adventure when she switches identities with a new friend on board, falls in love, and is trapped in a deadly avalanche.

Zayda Was a Cowboy by June Levitt Nislick. Jewish Publication Society of America, 2005. ISBN 0827608179. This is not your typical immigrant-makes-good story! "Zayda," ("Grandpa" in Yiddish) tells his grandchildren about fleeing service in the Russian Czar's army, landing in Galveston, Texas rather than Ellis Island, and making a life as a Jewish ranch hand.

Nonfiction

Heroine of the Titanic: The Real Unsinkable Molly Brown by Elaine Landau. Clarion Books, 2001. 0395939127. This is the unvarnished story of the rags-to-riches Irish American immigrant who survived the sinking of the *Titanic* and used her wealth and position to influence social reform.

Kids at Work: Lewis Hine and the Crusade against Child Labor by Russell Freedman. Clarion Books, 1998. ISBN 0395797268. Freedman tells the story of Lewis Hine, the teacher-turned-photographer who dedicated his life to educating the public about the evils of child labor through his photos.

Life: Our Century in Pictures for Young People, edited by Richard B. Stolley. Little, Brown and Company, 2000. ISBN 0316815896.

Our American Century: Events that Shaped the Century by the editors of Time-Life Books. Time-Life, 1998. ISBN 0783555024.

Visual Timeline of the 20th Century by Simon Adams. Dorling Kindersley, 1996. ISBN 0789409976.

Web Sites

- *American Masters: D. W. Griffith*, http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/database/griffith_d.html. Reviews the life and career of the legendary actor and director who dominated early 1900s filmmaking with his vision of film as an agent of social change.
- *Echoes of the Titanic Disaster*, <http://www.webtitanic.net/frameimage.html>. Dramatic account of the disaster with photos.
- *Media History Timeline: The 1910s*, <http://www.mediahistory.umn.edu/time/1910s.html>. Very detailed chronology of noteworthy events.
- *A Science Odyssey: Then + Now*, <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aso/thenandnow>. A chronology with a focus on advances in science and technology.
- *Southern Music Network*, <http://www.southernmusic.net/1900.htm>. An interesting overview the decade's music.
- "Votes for Women" Suffrage Pictures 1850-1920, <http://www.webtitanic.net/frameimage.html>. Browse or use keyword search to explore this brad site about the long campaign for women's right to vote.

The 1920s

- Student Guide
- Suggested Resources
- Events and Issues Timeline: America and the World
- Events and Issues Timeline: Family Life, Work, and School
- Events and Issues Timeline: Science and Technology
- Events and Issues Timeline: Key Social Issues
- Events and Issues Timeline: Arts, Sports, and Culture
- Supplemental Resources

Dynamic Decades: America in the 1920s

Student Guide

Dear Student,

Meet Emily Granger and George Reynolds. These fictional characters, whose lives exactly spanned the 20th century, will accompany you as you explore life in America in the 1920s. Emily is a woman of European ancestry, who grew up in a rural Alabama town. George is African American, and lived his life in the Chicago area. Born in 1900, both are young adults in this decade. Through letters, which you will find later in this Student Guide, they will share bits of their stories and offer personal perspectives on events and issues of the period. As you study the 1920s, keep in mind how Emily and George might have felt about or been involved in the events and issues you encounter. Try to see things through their eyes, so that in your unit project you can reflect their experiences and perspectives.

In this unit, you will be part of a group, researching a particular aspect of the 1920s, sharing your findings with your group, and working cooperatively to plan and present a project that demonstrates in a creative way what you've learned. You may be asked to form, and defend, a personal position on a key event or issue of the decade.

The 1920s

The 1920s are called "The Roaring Twenties," for the economic boom and the mood of celebration that swept the country. After World War I, many people hoped for lasting peace. Others, especially returning soldiers, were disillusioned by the realities of war. Either way, it was time to party, and there was money to spend! However, the need to let off steam came just as Prohibition began, and conflicting attitudes produced a lawless, carefree counterculture of bootleg liquor served in "speakeasies," supplied by gangsters and overlooked by corrupt officials. Daring young "flappers" danced rowdy dances like the Charleston and the Lindy Hop, named after a young hero named Charles Lindbergh. Traditions shattered; old rules gave way to more social freedom.

The postwar economic boom reached even the working poor. Unless you were a new immigrant, farmer, or Southern black, you were probably better off than ever before. While child labor and workplace abuses were still at issue, wages rose and working conditions improved. Average citizens could afford cars and some labor saving devices. Most communities provided basic services like sewage treatment, water, and electricity. The standard of living was rising. Many invested in the stock market, with an optimism shared by President Hoover, who predicted an end to poverty in America. The family began to gather around the radio for news, entertainment, and commercial messages.

Beneath this aura of well-being, old problems festered. Immigration was severely restricted, as Americans pulled back from global involvement and feared the influence of foreigners. The role of religion in education was contested in clashes over Bible reading and teaching evolution in schools. Racism also flourished through Jim Crow laws and violence against African Americans. The Ku Klux Klan reached its highest membership in the mid-1920s.

The idealism that characterized the dawn of the decade ended abruptly on “Black Tuesday,” October 24, 1929, when investors panicked over falling stock prices and rushed to sell their stocks and avoid financial ruin. The resulting collapse of the stock market set the stage for the great depression to follow.

Now let’s see what our two fictional characters have to say about life in the 1920s.



Emily Granger

Emily Maude (Grantham) Granger, born January 1, 1900; died December 31, 1999. Emily’s grandparents came to America from Germany in the 1880s. Her father was a U.S. Army Lieutenant and her mother a homemaker; Emily was the youngest of five children. Her family lived in the small coal mining town of Blocton, Alabama. Emily’s father died in France in 1918, fighting for the Allies in World War I. Emily graduated from the local high school and married her high school sweetheart, Joseph Granger, in 1919. The Grangers had four daughters. Emily was a homemaker until her husband died in 1942 while serving as a soldier in World War II. She went to work at a factory in Birmingham to support the war effort. Emily lost her job when the soldiers returned after the War. She lived out her life in Birmingham with her oldest daughter, enjoying a large family of children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great -great grandchildren.

George Reynolds

George Abraham Reynolds, born January 1, 1900; died December 31, 1999. George was African American, the son of a Pullman porter and a seamstress; the grandson of slaves. He had an older brother and a younger sister. George was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. He graduated from the University of Chicago in 1922, and pursued a career as a newspaper reporter for a publication written for African Americans. George married Francine Norris in 1926. He and his wife had a son and two daughters. He retired in 1972; his wife died in 1978.



September 3, 1923

Dear Anna,

Just think—In a week you'll be married! I wish I could be there, but I'm big as a house waiting for this new baby. Guess I'm lucky Deborah is such a good child, or things would be much harder right now. But I know you'll love being married! Joseph and I are so happy. We always find something to laugh about. He just got a raise at the mining company! It felt so extravagant when we bought the radio, but we listen to news and concerts all the time, and I love the radio dramas. And now we might get a Frigidaire icebox! Wouldn't that be something? Ice cream from our freezer in the middle of July! Joseph also talks about buying a movie camera for Christmas. He says that with two little ones in the house, there will be lots of interesting moments to capture on film. Lord! I don't know that I want him shooting me with that thing, but it would be fun to catch the children's growing-up moments to show them later.

One bad thing about the radio is hearing about this terrible "Teapot Dome" scandal. What a shame when we can't trust our own highest officials! All I can say is that I hope President Coolidge will run a cleaner operation than Harding did. And speaking of news, do you know anything about the Cable Act? Joseph teases me that I won't need him anymore, now that I'm an American citizen with or without him, but I can't imagine what difference it could possibly make to me! Does it comfort you to know that, when you marry Anthony, you won't need him to exercise your rights? I just don't know. . .

Anyway, back to the most important thing. How are wedding plans shaping up? I know you'll be a beautiful bride, and the picture you sent makes Anthony look so handsome. Please send me a wedding picture when you can, and I'll do the same when this baby comes. I'll think about you September 8th. I don't have much advice about married life, except for this tip—Wonder Bread! Joseph and Deborah are crazy about it! And it makes filling Joseph's lunch box so easy. I sound like one of those commercials you hear on the radio. . .

Enjoy every minute of your happy day!

Love,
Emily

November 28, 1925

Dear Greg,

Hey, big brother! How's life treating you there in The Big Apple? Is the new gig going well? I can't believe you get to play the Harlem clubs, with all the jazz greats around you! Well, not all. Remember the girl I told you about, Francine? She and I went to a club last night that was jumping! This trumpeter was playing, better than anybody I ever heard! And Francine can dance! You know how you always got on me about having two left feet? Well she had me looking good out there. Mama doesn't like my going to the speakeasies here any more than she likes your playing in them out there, and it doesn't help to tell her they're protected. Big Al himself shows up at this place sometimes, but I wouldn't tell her that! She says that whole scene is trouble waiting to happen. But after last night, I'll go back for sure. And Greg, I might really like this girl. You met anybody out there you like?

Did you hear about Red Grange signing with the Bears? I can't wait to see them play. I think he'll be a real boost to the team. So far, football hasn't been too big here, but that could change. We'll catch a game when you come back to visit.

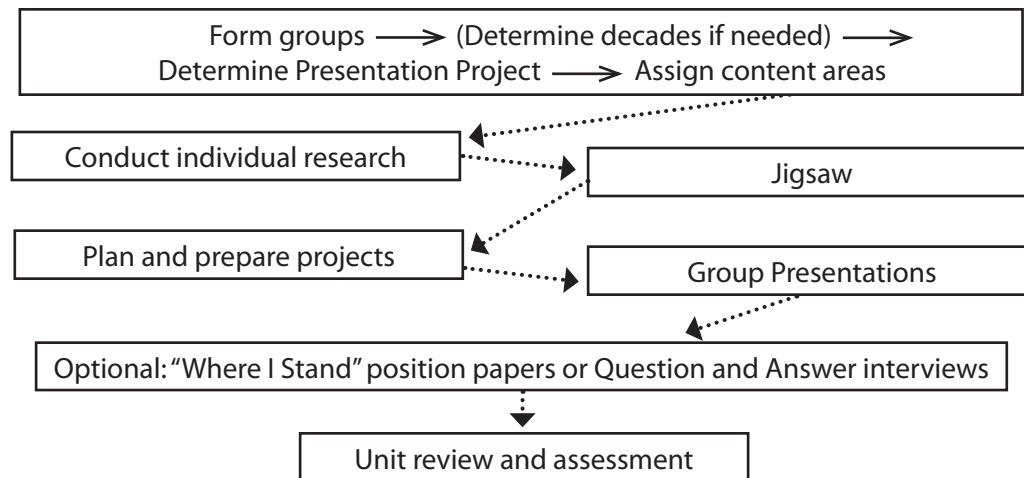
So what do you think, now that the Scopes trial's over and things have settled down? It's crazy that Scopes lost, but the fine was a joke. You can bet I'd want Darrow defending me, if I ever got in big trouble! Seems like the whole thing just made Bryan look foolish. We talk about evolution sometimes at the paper. Guess we can't help it—you get a bunch of reporters together and they're curious about everything, and not short on words to throw around. I always did think you were a big ape! There's been lots of talk, too, about Hubbel and his other galaxies. We spent a whole coffee break laughing about trying to teach some crazy space guys the Charleston!

We missed you at Thanksgiving, and I know you missed Mama's sweet potato pie! Hope you can make it home for Christmas. I actually miss you—imagine that! And I want you to meet Francine. I think she's something special. I think you will, too. Just don't get any ideas!

Take care,
George

Now that you've been introduced to Emily, George, and the 1920s, you're ready to begin. This section will take you through the project, step by step. Enjoy your exploration of this Dynamic Decade!

Here's an overview.



Steps to follow:

1. Form your group. Write the names of your group members here.

2. Will you study one or more than one decade? Write your group's decade(s) here.

3. Which project will your group prepare and present? Circle one.

- Write, stage, costume, rehearse, and present an original "American Life in the 1920s" skit
- Create, explain, read excerpts from, and display a "Decade in Review" newspaper
- Create, explain, and demonstrate a "Fascinating Facts" quiz game

4. Which content area(s) will you research for your group? Circle it or them.

- America and the world
- Family life, work, and school
- Science and technology
- Key social issues
- Arts, sports, and culture

5. Use resources from the Suggested Resources list or others recommended by your teacher to research your content area(s). Follow the Big6 research process or another process explained by your teacher. Use the Research Worksheet to help you find, record, and organize information. NOTE: You will turn in your Research Worksheet and your notes, so keep them neat and readable!

6. Meet in Jigsaw groups with other specialists in your content area. Exchange ideas and take notes on your Research Worksheet or additional paper.
7. Check out new sources or ideas from your content specialist meeting.
8. Report on your content area to your original group.
9. Plan and prepare your presentation project, fine tuning and supplementing your individual research as needed for the project. Be sure to build all the requirements from your Project Guidelines sheet into your project.
10. Present your group's project to the class.
11. (Prepare and present your "Where I Stand" position paper or Question & Answer interview, if assigned.)
12. Participate in the unit review and turn in your worksheet and notes.

Dynamic Decades: 1920s

America and the World

1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
Bill Tilden first American man to win at Wimbledon		World Court established in the Netherlands	President Harding dies, Coolidge sworn in	Dawes Plan calls U.S. banks to loan money to Germany for war recovery	George and Gladys Dick produce antitoxin for scarlet fever	Americans Bird and Bennett first to fly over North Pole	World's first underwater car tunnel opens under Hudson River	Herbert Hoover elected president	Stock market crash "Black Tuesday"
Warren G. Harding elected President			R. L. Maughan sets world record for airplane speed, 233.87 mph		Nations gather in Switzerland to ban biological, chemical warfare	Robert Goddard launches first liquid-fueled rocket	American violinist Yehudi Menuhin, popular in Europe	Young Russian immigrant claims to be Princess Anastasia of Russia	U.S. Secretary of State F. B. Kellogg wins Nobel Peace Prize
League of Nations convenes						Gertrude Ederle first woman to swim English Channel	Margaret Sanger organizes World Population Conference		<i>Graf Zeppelin</i> flies around world from NJ in 12 days
Former President Wilson wins Nobel Peace Prize						Treaty with Mexico to prevent smuggling drugs, liquor, illegals into U.S.	Kellogg-Briand Pact attempts to outlaw war worldwide		
Scientist Albert Michaelson first measures a star							Coolidge denies independence for Philippines		

KEY ISSUES

- U.S. is richest country in the world
- Immigration laws tighten as prejudices against immigrants grow
- U.S. first tries to stay neutral, then enters World War I "to make the world safe for democracy"
- End of war leaves losing countries crippled, resentful
- President Wilson prominent in promoting "Fourteen Points," advocating for League of Nations
- U.S. Congress fails to support Wilson's global vision
- U.S. increasingly imports, exports aspects of arts and culture
- "Lost Generation" of postwar American artists and intellectuals live, work in Paris

Dynamic Decades: 1920s

Family Life, Work, and School

1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
2000 radios in U.S. homes	5% U.S. teachers have only 8th grade education, 20% are under 21	Iowa radio station WOI first to be licensed as educational station	Kodak sells first "home movies" camera	2.5 million radios in U.S. homes	"Pineapple upside down cake" wins cooking prize	Sears Roebuck distributes 15 million mail order catalogs		3M introduces Scotch tape	71% homes have indoor bathrooms
Prohibition begins	13% of Americans have telephones		Frigidaire introduces first electric icebox	Model T car costs \$290	Duke becomes richest university, inheriting \$40 million from philanthropist James B. Duke	Greyhound buses begin service		First air-conditioned office building opens in TX	Over 50% of U.S. homes have radios
Only 28% of population live on farms	Margaret Sanger founds Birth Control League		Chevrolet introduces first air-cooled car	Men begin wearing blazers and oxford shoes	Early motel opens in CA	San Antonio, TX Presbyterian General Assembly rejects teaching evolution in school		Velveeta cheese marketed	23 million cars on U.S. roads
Band-aid invented	Wonder Bread introduced		First supermarket opens, CA	Upscale clothing stores opening in NYC	"Scopes Monkey Trial" over teaching evolution in school	E. L. Thorndike first quantifies intelligence			2/3 of U.S. homes have electricity
First mental health clinic opens, KS					Florida legislature requires Bible reading in schools				Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters first black union under AFL
Susan M. Dorsey becomes first woman superintendent of schools, Los Angeles					Jewish Institute of Religions graduates first class				

KEY ISSUES

- Basic utilities—sewage treatment, running water, electricity—generally provided in communities
- Cars affordable for ordinary people
- Availability of cars creates gradual move to suburbs
- New ways to shop, consumer-targeted advertising grows
- Growing interest in fashion; "ready-made;" increasingly casual clothes available
- Controversy over aspects of religion in schools
- Ongoing controversy over access to information about birth control

Dynamic Decades: 1920s

Science and Technology

1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
Band-aid invented	13% of Americans have telephones	First mechanical telephone switchboard installed, NYC	Kodak sells first "home movies" camera	First FM radio broadcasts	Complete solar eclipse Jan. 5, NYC	Robert Goddard launches first liquid-fueled rocket	Charles Lindbergh first person to fly NY to Paris alone	3M introduces Scotch tape	Edwin Hubble announces theory of expanding universe
Life expectancy for American man 53 years	Biologist T. H. Morgan introduces chromosome theory of heredity	Secretary of Commerce convenes conference of communication experts	U.S. Army pilots Kelly, Macready fly coast to coast	Edwin Hubble discovers galaxies beyond Milky Way	George and Gladys Dick produce antitoxin for scarlet fever		Car radios introduced	Disney makes first animated movie with sound	J. Doolittle makes first flight using instruments only to guide plane
Scientist Albert Michaelson first measures a star	G.W. Carver speaks to Congressional committee about uses of peanuts		R. L. Maughan sets world record for airplane speed, 233.87 mph	Clarence Darrow first uses mental illness as defense in murder trial of Leopold and Loeb	Chrysler Corporation formed		World's first underwater car tunnel opens under Hudson River	St. Francis Dam in CA breaks, killing 400	Graf Zeppelin flies around world from NJ in 12 days
"Tommy gun" patented			Frigidaire introduces first electric icebox	IBM founded			Ford introduces Model A car	George Eastman produces first color movies	Fokker F32 passenger plane unveiled
First mental health clinic opens, KS			Chevrolet introduces first air-cooled car	Connection of sugar and diabetes identified			J. D. Rust invents mechanical cotton picker	Television first introduced to public	Foam rubber invented
Treatment for epilepsy introduced			First neon advertising signs used	Bell Telephone Labs formed			First scheduled passenger flight, Boston to NY	Drinker and Shaw invent "iron lung"	
			First night airmail flights				First flight CA to Hawaii	First air-conditioned office building opens in TX	

KEY ISSUES

- Growing interest in space and the universe
- Communications technology continues to advance rapidly
- Great advances in transportation technology
- Global research advances knowledge of human diseases and identifies hormones
- Mental illness acknowledged and studied

Dynamic Decades: 1920s

Key Social Issues

1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
Prohibition begins	Conviction of Italian immigrants Sacco and Vanzetti sparks protest	Teapot Dome government scandal	President Harding dies, Coolidge sworn in	Coolidge elected president	N. T. Ross becomes first woman governor (WY) in U.S.	Powerful hurricane strikes FL	Sacco and Vanzetti executed	Herbert Hoover elected president	St. Valentine's Day massacre, Chicago
Only 28% of population live on farms	5% U.S. teachers had only 8th grade education, 20% were under 21	Federal Narcotic Control Board created	Black leader Marcus Garvey imprisoned	National Origins Act further restricts immigration	"Scopes Monkey Trial" over teaching evolution in school	2000 die from poisoned bootleg liquor	Margaret Sanger organizes World Population Conference	RCA stock climbs from \$85 to \$420 a share	Hoover predicts coming end of poverty in U.S.
Women first vote in national election	Tomb of the Unknown Soldier established in VA	Cable Act grants independent citizenship to married women	Harvard University bans discrimination	Ku Klux Klan 4 million membership all-time high	Ku Klux Klan marches in Washington D.C.	San Antonio, TX Presbyterian General Assembly rejects teaching evolution in school	U.S. Supreme Court allows segregation in MS schools	Supreme Court allows wiretapping of suspected Prohibition violators	Ku Klux Klan membership under 100,000
Warren G. Harding elected President	First Miss America pageant		MO legislator Dyer campaigns for anti-lynching bill	First woman governor, Miriam Ferguson, elected, TX	Estimated 32,000 speakeasies in NYC		Only celibate women may be ordained in Evangelical Church	Fingerprinting used to screen government employees	Stock market crash triggers Great Depression
"Red Scare" sweeps nation	Margaret Sanger founds Birth Control League			J.E. Hoover named director FBI	Florida housing boom			Hoover signs legislation to help U.S. farmers	
Women banned from some professions, earl less than men	Race riots in OK; martial law declared			Clarence Darrow first uses mental illness as defense in murder trial of Leopold, Loeb	Police raid gangster hideout, NYC			U.S. Secretary of State F. B. Kellogg wins Nobel Peace Prize	
Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America strike in 3 states	Workers (Communist) Party formed			Native Americans granted full citizenship	FL legislature requires Bible reading in schools			U.S. Migratory Bird Conservation Act	

KEY ISSUES

- Postwar relief, disillusionment creates permissive social attitudes, "party" atmosphere
- Prohibition feeds defiance in form of government corruption, organized crime, bootlegging, speakeasies, etc.
- Conservative presidential policy favors big business, lets capitalism function without interference
- Widespread prosperity reaches nearly all except African Americans, new immigrants, farmers
- Economic optimism feeds growing speculative investment in business
- Racial tensions escalate, Ku Klux Klan active
- Return to isolationism
- Fear of foreign influences leads to discrimination against immigrants, legislation restricting immigration
- "Red Scare" leads to search for, discrimination against perceived communists, socialists, anarchists
- Harlem Renaissance begins
- Young people champion liberal, permissive attitudes
- Growing controversy over aspects of religion in schools
- Ongoing controversy over access to information about birth control
- State governments experiment with censoring "immoral" fashions, dances
- Availability of cars allows increasing move from cities to suburbs

Dynamic Decades: 1920s

Arts, Sports, and Culture

1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
Negro National Baseball League plays first game	First radio broadcast of baseball game	<i>Abie's Irish Rose</i> opens on Broadway	Tommy Milton wins Indy 500	Popsicles introduced (called Epsicles)	Charleston dance craze	NBC becomes first broadcast network	Kool-Aid sold	Disney introduces Mickey Mouse	Hemingway's <i>A Farewell to Arms</i> published
First scheduled radio station begins in PA	Rudolph Valentino stars in movie <i>The Sheik</i>	<i>Reader's Digest</i> first published	Marathon dance craze	Gershwin's <i>Rhapsody in Blue</i> huge hit	Ford paints first cars in colors other than black	Gertrude Ederle first woman to swim English Channel	Car radios introduced	First <i>Laurel & Hardy</i> movie	first Academy Awards presented
2000 radios in U.S. homes	Fictional "Betty Crocker" invented to sell Crosby Company products	Annie Oakley wins Women's Trapshooting Competition	"Egyptian look" fashion craze follows display of King Tut's tomb treasures	2.5 million radios in U.S. homes	Red Grange signs with Chicago Bears, popularizes pro football	Georgia O'Keeffe's painting <i>Black Iris</i>	Jazz Singer first feature film with soundtrack	Debut of radio show <i>Amos 'n' Andy</i>	Over 50% of U.S. homes have radios
Sinclair Lewis's <i>Main Street</i> published	American Olympic Association created	Emily Post book of etiquette published	Yankee Stadium opens, NYC	First Winter Olympics, Paris	Flappers' skirts creep above knees	Gene Tunney becomes heavyweight boxing champ	Babe Ruth hits 60 home runs	Olympics, Amsterdam	Museum of Modern Art opens, NYC
Olympic games, Belgium	First Broadway musical written, directed by African Americans, opens	James Joyce's <i>Ulysses</i> banned in U.S.	<i>Time</i> magazine first published	"Flagpole sitting" fad begins	Early motel opens in CA	Americans sweep British golf Open	Yo-Yo introduced in U.S.	Race car driver Campbell sets new land speed record	
First transcontinental airmail run	Wonder Bread introduced	First radio advertisement broadcast, NYC	Helen Wills wins U.S. Women's Tennis title	Will Rogers performs with <i>Ziegfeld Follies</i>	Louis Armstrong forms his first band	Greta Garbo first appears in movie <i>The Torrent</i>	Baby Ruth candy bar sold	New York Rangers win Stanley Cup	
National Football League founded		T.S. Eliot's <i>The Waste Land</i> published	First neon advertising signs used	Black actor Paul Robeson threatened, "immoral" role	Lon Chaney stars in <i>Phantom of the Opera</i> film	Football called "immoral" by American Assoc. of University Professors	American violinist Yehudi Menuhin, popular in Europe	Gershwin's <i>American in Paris</i> opens, NYC	
		Lincoln Memorial dedicated		Upscale clothing stores opening in NYC		Langston Hughes' <i>The Weary Blues</i> , published	Duke Ellington performs at Harlem's Cotton Club		

KEY ISSUES

- Postwar celebration creates daring, festive atmosphere
- Prohibition sparks defiant, permissive counterculture
- Emergence of "Flaming Youth" culture
- Liberal, casual "Flapper" trend in women's fashions—shorter skirts, low necklines, silk stockings, bobbed hair, make-up, etc.
- Jazz emerges as separate form, catches on around world
- Social dances grow wilder to reflect permissive attitudes
- Harlem Renaissance begins
- Film industry continues to grow
- Radio organizes into regularly broadcasting stations, networks
- Hollywood film industry advances, expands; "movie star" phenomenon established
- New York City is showcase for live performance, arts

Suggested Resources

Print

The 1920s by Erica Hanson (A Cultural History of the United States through the Decades series). Lucent Books, 1999. ISBN 1560065524.

The 1920s by Margaret Sharman (Take Ten Years series). Raintree Steck-Vaughn, 1992. ISBN 0811430758.

The 1920s: From Prohibition to Charles Lindbergh by Stephen Feinstein (Decades of the 20th Century series). Enslow, 2006. ISBN 0766026329.

Bowling, Beatniks, and Bell-Bottoms: Pop Culture of 20th Century America edited by Sara Pendergast and Tom Pendergast. Thomson Gale, 2002 (Volume 2). ISBN 0787656771.

The Century for Young People by Peter Jennings, Todd Brewster, and Jennifer Armstrong. Doubleday Books for Young Readers, 1999. ISBN 0385327080.

Encyclopedia of the Harlem Renaissance by Aberjhani and Sandra L. West. Facts on File, 2003. ISBN 0816045402.

Fashions of a Decade: The 1920s by Jacqueline Herald. Facts on File, 2006 (Fashions of a Decade series). ISBN 081606718X.

Oxford Children's Book of the 20th Century: A Concise Guide to a Century of Contrast and Change by Stewart Ross. Oxford University Press, 1999. ISBN 0195214889.

The Roaring Twenties: Biographies by Kelly King Howes. Thomson Gale, 2006 (Roaring Twenties Reference Library series). ISBN 1414402112.

The Roaring Twenties: Almanac and Primary Sources by Kelly King Howes. Thomson Gale 2005 (Roaring Twenties Reference Library series). ISBN 1414402120.

UXL American Decades—1920–1929 edited by Tom Pendergast and Sara Pendergast. UXL, 2003. ISBN 078766457X.

War, Peace, and All That Jazz 1918–1945 (A History of Us series, Volume 9) by Joy Hakim. Oxford University Press, 2006. ISBN 0195307380.

Nonprint

Roaring Twenties by various artists. Pearl, 2000. ASIN B00004TJB2. Vocal and instrumental popular songs and dance tunes.

Web Sites

- *American Cultural History: 1920–1929*, <http://kclibrary.nhmccd.edu/decade20.html>.
- *The American Experience: The Crash of 1929*, <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/crash/gallery/index.html>. Comprehensive coverage of the devastating stock market crash.
- *American Memory: The Coolidge Era and the Consumer Economy, 1921–1929*, <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/coolhtml/coolhome.html>.
- *Archer Audio Archives: The 1920s: 1920–1929*, <http://archer2000.tripod.com/1920.html>. An excellent brief chronology of the decade, with audio clips from radio and recordings of the period.
- *AmericanPresident.org*, <http://www.americanpresident.org/history>. Check out the biographies of Presidents Wilson, Harding, Coolidge and Hoover.
- *A Biography of America: The Twenties*, <http://www.learner.org/biographyofamerica/prog20/index.html>. A student-generated site surveying music and literature of the decade.
- *Digital History*, <http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/modules>. Take a look at the module on the 1920s.
- *Jazz Age Culture*, <http://faculty.pittstate.edu/~knichols/jazzage.html>. This well-designed umbrella site offers comprehensive coverage of historical and cultural events and issues of the decade.
- *Thinkquest: The Roaring Twenties*, <http://library.thinkquest.org/C005846/>.
- *Twentieth Century Inventions 1900–1999*, <http://inventors.about.com/library/weekly>. Year by year highlights with links to further information.
- *WWW-VL: HISTORY: USA: 1920–1929*, <http://vlib.iue.it/history/USA/ERAS/20TH/1920s.html>. An umbrella site offering many links arranged in the form of an outline of the decade.

Supplemental Resources

Fiction

The Babbs Switch Story by Darleen Bailey Beard. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2002. ISBN 0374304750. Based on a real schoolhouse fire in Babbs Switch, Oklahoma in 1924, the story centers on Ruth Ann Tillman and her developmentally delayed sister, whose disabilities create a variety of problems.

Black Duck by Janet Taylor Lisle. Philomel, 2006. ISBN 0399239634. A young would-be journalist, looking for a story worthy of print, finds it in the mysterious, dramatic past of his elderly neighbor who was caught up in the seamy side of Prohibition-era smuggling.

Choosing Up Sides by John H. Ritter. Philomel, 1998. ISBN 0399231854. Thirteen-year-old Luke is caught between his fundamentalist clergyman father, who sees sports as evil and left-handedness as worse, and his love of baseball, in which he shows promise as a southpaw pitcher.

Darby by Jonathon Scott Fuqua. Candlewick Press, 2006. ISBN 0763622907. Nine-year-old Darby and her black friend Evette want to be journalists. But they get more than they bargained for when a column Darby writes in her local newspaper, defending blacks after a racist murder, makes her a target for Ku Klux Klan revenge.

Dave at Night by Gail Carson Levine. HarperTrophy, 2001. ISBN 0064407470. Spunky, trouble-prone Dave has landed at the oppressive Hebrew Home for Boys. He sneaks out at night and discovers the exciting world of the Harlem Renaissance. With help from friends inside and outside the orphanage, Dave finds a real home for himself and a better life for his orphan buddies.

Dovey Coe by Frances O'Rourke Dowell. Aladdin, 2001. ISBN 0689846673. Twelve-year-old Dovey can't stand her sister's pretentious boyfriend. But is it in her to kill him? When Parnell Caraway turns up dead, Dovey finds herself on trial for murder. This brilliant novel paints a vivid picture of life in a small North Carolina mountain community after World War I.

Dream Soul by Laurence Yep. HarperTrophy, 2002. ISBN 0064407888. Chinese immigrant Joanie yearns to celebrate Christmas with her West Virginia community in 1927, despite her parents' determination to hold onto Chinese tradition.

Ebony Rising: Short Fiction of the Greater Harlem Renaissance Era edited by Craig Gable. Indiana University Press, 2004. ISBN 0253216753. This book features over 50 short stories written by Harlem Renaissance authors, enhanced by timelines of relevant events of the period.

Grape Thief by Kristine L. Franklin. Candlewick Press, 2003. ISBN 0763613258. When hard times demand that he leave school and help support his family, Croatian immigrant "Cuss" Petrovick decides to leave his 1925 cola mining town and jump a grape train to find work in California.

The Jazz Kid by James Lincoln Collier. Puffin Books, 19964. ISBN 0140377786. Paulie is a goner! One taste of jazz, and all he wants is play this music. His obsession involves him 1920s Chicago's speakeasies and organized crime. The story explores city life, early jazz, gangsters, nurturing talent, race relations and family bonds.

Main Street by Sinclair Lewis. Barnes & Noble Classics, 2003. ISBN 1593080360. In this classic novel of small-town America circa 1920, Lewis reveals the hypocrisy and small-mindedness of a Minnesota town

through the eyes of Carol Kennicott, the bright, sophisticated new wife of the town doctor, who discovers that she is expected to abandon her progressive ideas and serve as social window dressing instead.

Monkey Town: A Story of the Scopes Trial by Ronald Kidd. Simon & Schuster Children's Book, 2006. ISBN 1416905723. Frances is 15 the summer of 1925, when her familiar world of Dayton, Tennessee, is turned upside down by the infamous trial of her favorite teacher, John Scopes, for teaching evolution in school.

Playing with Fire by Kathleen Karr. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2001. ISBN 0374234531. The spiritualism craze of the 1920s is explored in this story in which teenager Greer, who has psychic powers of her own, is caught up in the schemes and drama of her clairvoyant mother and her mother's charlatan manager.

The Secret School by Avi. Harcourt Paperbacks, 2003. ISBN 0152046992. Ida Bidsen is devastated when her one-room Colorado school must shut down early, preventing her from taking the exam she needs to go on to high school. Ida and the students cook up a plan for her to secretly take over teaching. Will Ida be able to pull it off? Will she pass her exams? A funny, heartwarming story.

Time of the Rabies by Robert Laxalt. University of Nevada Press, 2000. ISBN 0874173507. This short, dramatic novel depicts life for Nevada sheep ranchers in the 1920s as they battle a rabies epidemic.

The Tree of Bells by Jean Thesman. Houghton Mifflin, 1999. ISBN 0395905109. Sixteen-year-old Clare Harris is at the center of a group of spirited women who run a boarding house in Seattle in the 1920s and engage in social and political activism.

Tulsa Burning by Anna Myers. Walker Books for Young Readers, 2004. ISBN 0802776965. This coming-of-age story is set in the racist tumult of Oklahoma in 1921. Fifteen-year-old Noble Chase is caught between violent white men who dominate him and his mother, and his new black friends, who also long for freedom and justice.

Wild Orphan by Kathryn Adams Doty. Edinborough Press, 2006. ISBN 1889020206. Spunky orphan Georgiana and down-on-her-luck Lizbeth share the hardships of a 1920s orphanage, where they help each other find the courage to move on to better lives.

Witness by Karen Hesse. Scholastic, 2001. ISBN 0439272009. This "novel in five acts," written in relatable, compelling free verse, uses many voices to explore the activity of the Ku Klux Klan in a small Vermont town in 1924.

Nonfiction

Charles Lindbergh and the Spirit of St. Louis by Dominick A. Pisano and F. Robert van der Linden. Harry N. Abrams, 2002. ISBN 0810905523.

Inherit the Wind by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee. Ballantine Books, 2003. ISBN 0345466276. This classic play explores the threat to intellectual freedom posed in the Scopes Monkey Trial.

Life: Our Century in Pictures for Young People, edited by Richard B. Stolley. Little, Brown and Company, 2000. ISBN 0316815896.

Margaret Sanger by Vicki Cox. Chelsea House, 2004. ISBN 0791080307.

Only Yesterday: An Informal History of the 1920s by Frederick L. Allen. Harper Perennial Modern Classics, 2000. ISBN 0060956658.

Our American Century: Events that Shaped the Century by the editors of Time-Life Books. Time-Life, 1998. ISBN 0783555024.

The Scopes Monkey Trial by Freya Ottem Hanson. Enslow, 2000. ISBN 076601388X.

Visual Timeline of the 20th Century by Simon Adams. Dorling Kindersley, 1996. ISBN 07894099h76.

Will Rogers at the Ziegfeld Follies by Will Rogers. University of Oklahoma Press, 1992. ISBN 0806123575.

Nonprint

Langston Hughes: The Voice of the Poet, read by the author. Random House Audio, 2005 (CD). ISSN 0553714910.

Web Sites

- *The 1920s Experience*, <http://www.angelfire.com/co/pscst>.
- *American Masters: Charlie Chaplin*, http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/database/chaplin_c.html. Reviews the life and career of the beloved actor whose career spanned several decades.
- *Film History of the 1920s*, <http://www.filmsite.org/20sintro.html>.
- *Media History Timeline: The 1920s*, <http://www.mediahistory.umn.edu/time/1920s.html>. Very detailed chronology of noteworthy events.
- *A Science Odyssey: Then + Now*, <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aso/thenandnow>. A chronology with a focus on advances in science and technology. Look for 1920s entries in the different categories.
- *Southern Music Network*, <http://www.southernmusic.net/1920.htm>. An interesting overview the decade's music.

The 1930s

- Student Guide
- Suggested Resources
- Events and Issues Timeline: America and the World
- Events and Issues Timeline: Family Life, Work, and School
- Events and Issues Timeline: Science and Technology
- Events and Issues Timeline: Key Social Issues
- Events and Issues Timeline: Arts, Sports, and Culture
- Supplemental Resources

Dynamic Decades: America in the 1930s

Student Guide

Dear Student,

Meet Emily Granger and George Reynolds. These fictional characters, whose lives exactly spanned the 20th century, will accompany you as you explore life in America in the 1930s. Emily is a woman of European ancestry, who grew up in a rural Alabama town. George is African American, and lived his life in the Chicago area. Born in 1900, both are in their thirties in this decade. Through letters, which you find later in this Student Guide, they will share bits of their stories and offer personal perspectives on events and issues of the period. As you study the 1930s, keep in mind how Emily and George might have felt about or been involved in the events and issues you encounter. Try to see things through their eyes, so that in your unit project you can reflect their experiences and perspectives.

In this unit, you will be part of a group, researching a particular aspect of the 1930s, sharing your findings with your group, and working cooperatively to plan and present a project that demonstrates in a creative way what you've learned. You may be asked to form, and defend, a personal position on a key event or issue of the decade.

The 1930s

When the stock market crashed in October 1929, it threw the whole country into shock. Whether lulled by postwar good feelings or worn down by ongoing economic hardships in the country's farming communities and poor neighborhoods, few Americans saw the warning signs. Fortunes were lost overnight in the spectacular start of what was to be a deep, decade-long depression felt throughout the entire industrialized world. To make matters worse, severe drought moved across the country. Not only did crops fail to grow from Montana and the Dakotas to Texas for much of the 1930s, but unwise agricultural practices had stripped the land of trees and plants needed to anchor the soil. When devastating winds swept the plains, topsoil blew away in furious clouds of dust that killed livestock, sickened people, and deepened poverty. Large segments of the population took to the roads as transients, following the promise of work. "Shantytowns" and "riding the rails" became ways of life for the poorest of the poor, while the cities' missions doled out bread and "depression soup" to masses of needy residents.

President Hoover was largely blamed for poor leadership in the crisis. By contrast, his successor, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, was beloved as a man of action who brought hope and some improvement to the nation. Gone were the days of Hoover's "small government, big-business" style, as Roosevelt directed and expanded government's power toward support of labor and "the little guy." Through his "New Deal," Roosevelt changed forever the way the federal government involves itself in the economic life of the American people.

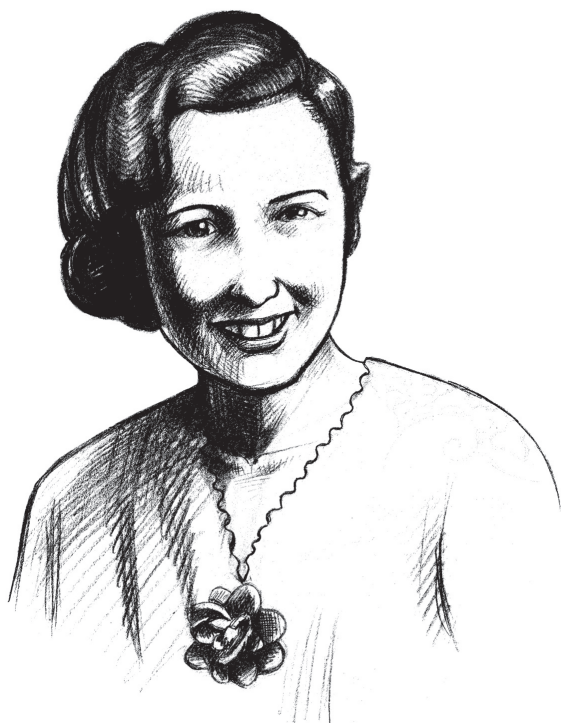
Because the suffering of the Depression was so widespread, it drew Americans together and distracted them from taking interest in world affairs. People looked for inexpensive, entertaining ways to escape their troubles. The popularity of board and card games exploded, and the Golden Ages of

radio and Hollywood films dawned.

In the end, it was World War II that moved the USA and its fellow sufferers in Europe out of depression and back toward prosperity.

Now let's see what our two fictional characters have to say about life in the 1930s.

Emily Granger



Emily Maude (Grantham) Granger, born January 1, 1900; died December 31, 1999. Emily's grandparents came to America from Germany in the 1880s. Her father was a U.S. Army Lieutenant and her mother a homemaker; Emily was the youngest of five children. Her family lived in the small coal mining town of Blocton, Alabama. Emily's father died in France in 1918, fighting for the Allies in World War I. Emily graduated from the local high school and married her high school sweetheart, Joseph Granger, in 1919. The Grangers had four daughters. Emily was a homemaker until her husband died in 1942 while serving as a soldier in World War II. She went to work at a factory in Birmingham to support the war effort. Emily lost her job when the soldiers returned after the War. She lived out her life in Birmingham with her oldest daughter, enjoying a large family of children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great - great grandchildren.

George Reynolds

George Abraham Reynolds, born January 1, 1900; died December 31, 1999. George was African American, the son of a Pullman porter and a seamstress; the grandson of slaves. He had an older brother and a younger sister.

George was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. He graduated from the University of Chicago in 1922, and pursued a career as a newspaper reporter for a publication written for African Americans. George married Francine Norris in 1926. He and his wife had a son and two daughters. He retired in 1972; his wife died in 1978.



February 10, 1931

Dear Anna,

I'm so sad to hear about Gretchen's father. How awful! I knew he worked for a bank, though I didn't realize it was the big one that closed. Gretchen always had all the latest things when they lived here. And I know that others have killed themselves because of this horrible depression. But I never thought that would happen to anyone I knew! I'll write to her, though Lord knows what I'll say! It's hard to imagine, here where most people didn't have much to start with, that a person would kill himself because of going from rich to poor. But I guess if you've never known any other way than to give your family everything, you might feel bad enough to do such a thing. It's unseemly to say this, seeing as he's our President, but it seems like Hoover isn't doing much to make things better for people. A bunch of shacks have popped up near the railroad tracks in Birmingham, where homeless people and hobos stay. There's a sign saying "Hooverville" over it. I can't abide disrespect for government, but it sure shows how lots of people feel.

Enough sad talk. I'm glad you and your family are OK, and I hope Anthony finds a job soon. We are fine. Joseph still has his job, thank God. Not everyone at the mine has been so lucky. We get by, and the girls are happy as long as they can hear their radio programs and go to the movies now and then! Joseph talked me into seeing that new movie *Frankenstein* last week, and taking Deborah. Have you seen it? I thought it was horrible, but Joseph and Deborah loved it! Seems like the movies are full of monsters, gangsters, and gunslingers these days. But I shouldn't begrudge them small pleasures when times are so hard. As for me, I like Laurel & Hardy and Betty Boop cartoons!

I suppose, living in the city, you've tried all the new foods. Joseph brought home Twinkies for the girls last week and they carried on like they'd just had a taste of heaven. Give me fresh-baked Toll House cookies, any day!

Please write soon. I know it's hard for you to live with Anthony's family again, after being on your own. I'll worry until I hear!

Love,
Emily

September 10, 1939

Dear Greg,

Well, it's officially war in Europe. I wonder what it will mean. It seems like someone has to stop Hitler from taking over everything in sight. But where will it end? Can we stay out of it, or is it our duty to help? Sad to say, but the troubles in Europe may just be what it takes to bring better economic times. Our factories are already gearing up to supply what we can. It's a sad irony that "war is good for the economy."

Thanks again for the great time you showed us last month. You know I wasn't sure we should make the trip, but it was worth every penny, and Daddy's railroad connections sure helped. The kids haven't stopped talking about the World's Fair! Neither have we. What wonders we saw! After seeing the Transportation Zone, Junior is crazy to run out and become a pilot and fly across the Atlantic! I suppose everyone will have a television someday. Will that put us newspapermen out of business? Do you think they really will find a cure for cancer, and that everyone will have at least a high school education, by the 1960s? I'm definitely going to get me some Benny Goodman records! And of course, it was great to see you, Big Brother! I think I enjoyed our late-night talks about what's right and wrong with the world as much as the Fair.

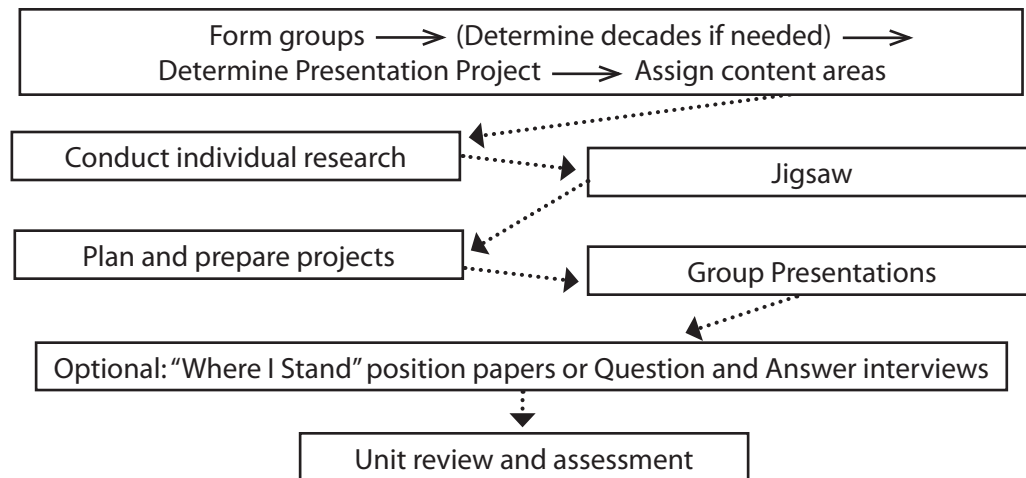
As if that wasn't enough excitement for the summer, we had to rush right out and see *The Wizard of Oz* when we got home. Francine and Emerald thought it was too scary, but Racine, Junior and I thought it was great.

So what do you think about FDR's decision to have Thanksgiving earlier? I have to say, much as I like the man and eager as I am to see the economy improve, this seems like a cynical attempt to make Christmas a commercial enterprise. Francine's all up in arms about it, and she likes to shop! She and I don't always see eye to eye when it comes to politics, but I agree with her on this one. Oh well, no matter the date, the holidays will be here soon enough, and I'll take my turkey and sweet potato pie any day she wants to cook them!

Take care,
George

Now that you've been introduced to Emily, George, and the 1930s, you're ready to begin. This section will take you through the project, step by step. Enjoy your exploration of this *Dynamic Decade*!

Here's an overview.



Steps to follow:

1. Form your group. Write the names of your group members here.

2. Will you study one or more than one decade? Write your group's decade(s) here.

3. Which project will your group prepare and present? Circle one.

- Write, stage, costume, rehearse, and present an original "American Life in the 1930s" skit
- Create, explain, read excerpts from, and display a "Decade in Review" newspaper
- Create, explain, and demonstrate a "Fascinating Facts" quiz game

4. Which content area(s) will you research for your group? Circle it or them.

- America and the world
- Family life, work, and school
- Science and technology
- Key social issues
- Arts, sports, and culture

5. Use resources from the Suggested Resources list or others recommended by your teacher to research your content area(s). Follow the Big6 research process or another process explained by your teacher. Use the Research Worksheet to help you find, record, and organize information. NOTE: You will turn in your Research Worksheet and your notes, so keep them neat and readable!

6. Meet in Jigsaw groups with other specialists in your content area. Exchange ideas and take notes on your Research Worksheet or additional paper.
7. Check out new sources or ideas from your content specialist meeting.
8. Report on your content area to your original group.
9. Plan and prepare your presentation project, fine tuning and supplementing your individual research as needed for the project. Be sure to build all the requirements from your Project Guidelines sheet into your project.
10. Present your group's project to the class.
11. (Prepare and present your "Where I Stand" position paper or Question & Answer interview, if assigned.)
12. Participate in the unit review and turn in your worksheet and notes.

Dynamic Decades: 1930s

America and the World

1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Worldwide economic Depression	Jane Addams wins Nobel Peace Prize	Amelia Earhart first woman to fly solo across Atlantic	FD Roosevelt becomes President	U.S. pilot Wiley Post first to fly solo around the world	Race car driver Campbell sets record land speed, 301 mph	FDR reelected President	Golden Gate Bridge takes over as world's longest suspension bridge	Pearl Buck wins Nobel Prize for literature	New York World's Fair
Empire State Building completed, tallest in world		Yellow fever vaccine announced	Chicago World's Fair		Howard Hughes sets world airspeed record, 352 mph	Jesse Owens excels at German Olympics, enraging Hitler	Japan bombs U.S. ships, apologizes		Pan American Airways starts regular transatlantic flights
World's longest suspension bridge opens between NY, NJ			AFL calls for boycott of German products to protest Nazi power		Richter Scale first measures earthquakes	Americans set balloon altitude record			Possible war with Germany boosts many boost manufacturing, helps economy
Sinclair Lewis wins Nobel Prize for literature						Eugene O'Neill wins Nobel Prize for literature			
World population reaches 2 billion						first vitamin pills sold in U.S.			
Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act discourages imported goods									

KEY ISSUES

- World fascinated, increasingly connected by growing reach of air travel
- Advances in health, medical care in response to poverty, illness
- Hitler's rise to power in Germany a growing worry for Americans
- War in Europe boosts U.S. manufacturing, helps economy at end of decade

Dynamic Decades: 1930s

Family Life, Work, and School

1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
First airline stewardesses hired by United Airlines		Worst Depression Year for automobile industry	25% unemployment in U.S.	Ritz crackers introduced	FDR creates National Youth Administration	First vitamin pills sold in U.S.	Spam introduced	Birth control legal in most states	Food stamps first issued
26,000 American businesses collapse		Aerosol whipped cream invented		Dust storms sweep Plains states	Social Security Act becomes law		Kraft Macaroni and Cheese introduced	C. F. Carlson invents copy machine	Little League baseball begins
		Farm prices down 53% from 1929		First public laundromat, TX	First Howard Johnson restaurant opens, MA		Food blenders on sale		Thanksgiving date changed to extend Christmas shopping
				Economy improves, GNP rises, unemployment falls slightly	FDR extends electricity through Rural Electrification Administration		Limited minimum wage of 25 cents per hour introduced		Movies cost 25 cents
					Games Bingo, Monopoly introduced		Successful labor strikes give hope, power to workers		10 million people still out of work
					First parking meters used, OK				Hewlett-Packard company founded
					National Labor Relations Act supports union activity				

KEY ISSUES

- Widespread business failures, unemployment, poverty of Depression shock nation after 1920s prosperity
- Drought, dust storms devastate already struggling farmers
- Shantytowns of homeless called "Hoovervilles" to protest Hoover's ineffectiveness during Depression
- Hundreds of thousands of men, women, and children become transients, looking for work
- Religious and charitable organizations provide free food in soup kitchens and "bread lines" in large cities
- President Roosevelt's "New Deal" brings visible action, hope, jobs, to despairing families
- Rural families have access to electricity
- Labor gains power, government support; working conditions improved for those with jobs
- Substance abuse acknowledged, organized treatment begins
- Americans seek distraction from national, global problems through entertainment
- Parlor, board games, radio, movies popular

Dynamic Decades: 1930s

Science and Technology

1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
World's longest suspension bridge opens between NY, NJ	Alka-Seltzer introduced	Aerosol whipped cream invented	Einstein visits U.S.	U.S. pilot Wiley Post first to fly solo around the world	FDR extends electricity through Rural Electrification Administration	First all glass building erected, OH	Golden Gate Bridge takes over as world's longest suspension bridge	C. F. Carlson invents copy machine	GE introduces fluorescent lights
Empire State Bldg. completed, tallest in world		Yellow fever vaccine announced	First stereo recordings on sale		Soil Conservation Service established	Hoover Dam completed	Hindenburg explodes over NJ		New York World's Fair
First photograph of Pluto		Polaroid film invented	Chicago World's Fair		Race car driver Campbell sets record land speed, 301 mph	First vitamin pills sold in U.S.	Nylon invented		First regular TV service broadcast
Edison experiments with electric passenger train, NJ					Howard Hughes sets world airspeed record, 352 mph		First blood bank opens, Chicago		Pan American Airways starts regular transatlantic flights
					First use of lie detector in court		Food blenders on sale		
					First drug rehabilitation center opens, KY		First evidence that smoking causes cancer		
					Richter Scale first measures earthquakes				

KEY ISSUES

- Global Depression slows invention of labor-saving devices
- Continuing advances in transportation, engineering, architecture
- Advances in health, medical care in response to poverty, illness
- Electricity reaches rural communities
- Pilots extending reach of air travel are popular heroes

Dynamic Decades: 1930s

Key Social Issues

1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Hoover promises Depression will end within 60 days	Al Capone jailed for tax evasion	Worst Depression year for automobile industry	FD Roosevelt becomes President	Economy improves, GNP rises, unemployment falls slightly	FDR creates National Youth Administration	FDR reelected President	Texas school-house fire kills 500 people	FDR signs Agricultural Adjustment Act, Fair Labor Standards Act	Food stamps first issued
Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act discourages imported goods	Jane Addams wins Nobel Peace Prize	WWI veterans march to protest unpaid bonuses	25% unemployment in U.S.	Celebrity outlaws Bonnie and Clyde killed in LA	Social Security Act becomes law	CIO begins wave of labor strikes	First blood bank opens, Chicago	Birth control legal in most states	African American singer Marian Anderson banned from performing at Constitution Hall
26,000 American businesses collapse	Jehovah's Witnesses established	Olympics in Los Angeles	FDR appoints first woman Cabinet member	Dust storms sweep Plains states	Soil Conservation Service established	National Wildlife Federation set up	Successful labor strikes give hope, power to workers	U.S. House Un-American Activities Committee established	Northern and Southern Methodist Churches reunite
	Bank of the United States closes doors	Farm prices down 53% from 1929	FDR's "New Deal" begins	FDR sets up Securities and Exchange Commission to regulate Wall Street	National Labor Relations Act supports union activity	Maryland Law School admits first African American after Supreme Court decision	GM recognizes United Auto Workers union after successful strike	Fair Labor Standards Act sets minimum wage, limits work week, outlaws most child labor	Possible war with Germany boosts manufacturing, helps economy
	Gambling legalized in NV	200,000 children among "hobos" wandering the country	21st Amendment repeals Prohibition	FBI "G-Men" go after criminals with guns, expanded authority	Dust storms sweep Plains states	Government hires Woody Guthrie to tour with patriotic songs	W. H. Hastie becomes first African American federal judge		
	"Scottsboro Boys" wrongly tried in AL		FDR creates Federal many government agencies to fight Depression		First use of lie detector in court				
			Negro League plays East-West All-Star Games at Comiskey Park, Chicago		First drug rehabilitation center opens, Alcohol Anonymous begins				

KEY ISSUES

- Widespread business failures, unemployment, poverty of Depression shock nation after 1920s prosperity
- Drought, dust storms devastate already struggling farmers
- Shantytowns of homeless called "Hoovervilles" to protest Hoover's ineffectiveness during Depression
- President Roosevelt's "New Deal" brings visible action and hope, if not great results, to despairing nation
- Government gets tougher on crime
- Religious and charitable organizations provide free food in soup kitchens and "bread lines" in large cities
- Labor gains power, government support; working conditions improved for those with jobs
- Jim Crow laws, racist violence continue
- Substance abuse acknowledged, organized treatment begins
- FDR changes role of government from distant and pro-business to bigger, hands-on, pro-labor

Dynamic Decades: 1930s

Arts, Sports, and Culture

1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Pepsi, Coke fight "the cola wars"	"Star Spangled Banner" made national anthem	Amelia Earhart 1st woman to fly solo across Atlantic	FDR's 1st "fireside chat" radio broadcast	Ritz crackers introduced	1st major league baseball game "under the lights"	Jesse Owens excels at German Olympics	Spam introduced	Broadcast of "War of the Worlds" causes panic	Little League baseball begins
Sinclair Lewis wins Nobel Prize for literature	<i>Dracula</i> and <i>Frankenstein</i> movies premiere	Babe Didrikson star of Olympics, in Los Angeles	1st stereo recordings on sale	Shirley Temple stars in <i>Stand Up and Cheer</i>	1st Howard Johnson restaurant opens, MA	<i>Life</i> magazine premieres	<i>Snow White</i> 1st animated full-length movie	<i>Superman</i> 1st appears in Action Comics	Thanksgiving date changed to extend Christmas shopping
Toll House cookies invented	Jehovah's Witnesses established	Jack Benny starts radio career	1st drive-in movie opens, NJ	St. Louis Cardinals win World Series	Games Bingo, Monopoly introduced	Government hires Woody Guthrie to tour with patriotic songs	Joe Louis becomes heavyweight boxing champ	Pearl Buck wins Nobel Prize for literature	Tolkien writes <i>The Hobbit</i>
Hostess Twinkies introduced	Gambling legalized in NV	Radio City Music Hall opens NYC	21st Amendment repeals Prohibition	Juke boxes in many restaurants, bars	1st radio "hit parade"	Eugene O'Neill wins Nobel Prize for literature	Amelia Earhart disappears in flight	Swing music the rage, NYC	Steinbeck's <i>Grapes of Wrath</i> published
John Wayne stars in his 1st western	Golf, tennis clothes influence fashion	Electric guitar developed	Chicago World's Fair	1st U.S. Masters golf competition, GA	Paperback books introduced	Gershwin's <i>Porgy and Bess</i> opens	<i>Play Our Town</i> opens, NYC		New York World's Fair
Grant Wood paints <i>American Gothic</i>	1st <i>Dick Tracy</i> comic strip	<i>King Kong</i> in theaters	<i>King Kong</i> in theaters	Apollo Theater in Harlem showcases black performers	1st canned beer on sale	D Carnegie publishes <i>How to Win Friends and Influence People</i>	Kraft Macaroni & Cheese introduced		<i>The Wizard of Oz, Gone With the Wind</i> in theaters
Pinball machine invented, Chicago		Negro League plays East-West All-Star Games at Comiskey Park, Chicago		Film industry professional organization begins to regulate sexual content in movies	Gallup pioneers reliable opinion polling	Baseball Hall of Fame opens	Dr. Seuss' book <i>And to Think that I Saw It on Mulberry Street</i> a hit		African American Marian Anderson denied stage at Constitution Hall

KEY ISSUES

- Americans seek distraction from national, global problems through entertainment
- Parlor, board games popular
- Beginning of "Golden Age" of film, comedies and horror films popular
- "Golden Age" of radio, as gathering point for families
- Swing and blues dominate popular music
- Lavish Broadway musicals hit stage and screen
- Race still major barrier in sports
- Americans are fascinated with pilots who extend reach of air travel

Suggested Resources

Print

The 1930s by Petra Press (A Cultural History of the United States through the Decades series). Lucent Books, 1998. ISBN 1560065532.

The 1930s by Ken Hills (Take Ten Years series). Raintree Steck-Vaughn, 1992. ISBN 0811430766.

The 1930s: From the Great Depression to the Wizard of Oz by Stephen Feinstein (Decades of the 20th Century series). Enslow, 2006. ISBN 0766026337.

America in the 1930s by James Callan (Decades of American History series). Facts on File, 2005. ISBN 0816056382.

Bowling, Beatniks, and Bell-Bottoms: Pop Culture of 20th Century America edited by Sara Pendergast and Tom Pendergast. Thomson Gale, 2002 (Volume 2). ISBN 0787656771.

The Century for Young People by Peter Jennings, Todd Brewster, and Jennifer Armstrong. Doubleday Books for Young Readers, 1999. ISBN 0385327080.

Fashions of a Decade: The 1930s by Maria Costantino. Facts on File, 1992 (Fashions of a Decade series). ISBN 0816024669.

The Great Depression by David F. Burg (Eyewitness History series). Facts on File, 2006. ISBN 0816057095.

The Great Depression by Peggy J. Parks (Daily Life series). Thomson Gale, 2003. ISBN 0737713992.

Oxford Children's Book of the 20th Century: A Concise Guide to a Century of Contrast and Change by Stewart Ross. Oxford University Press, 1999. ISBN 0195214889.

UXL American Decades—1930–1939 edited by Tom Pendergast and Sara Pendergast. UXL, 2003. ISBN 0787664588.

War, Peace, and All That Jazz 1918–1945 (A History of Us series, Volume 9) by Joy Hakim. Oxford University Press, 2006. ISBN 0195307380.

Nonprint

Brother, Can You Spare a Dime? by various artists. New World Records, 2001 (Music CD). ASIN B00005QG-DO. A varied collection sung by such stars of the day as Bing Crosby, Rudy Vallee, Shirley Temple, Gene Autry, and Woody Guthrie.

Project Twenty: Life in the Thirties. Shanachie Entertainment, 2003 (DVD). ASIN B00008LDNU. Re-release of a 1950s revealing look at the Depression decade.

Web Sites

- *American Cultural History: 1930–1939*, <http://kclibrary.nhmccd.edu/decade30.html>.
- *American Experience: Riding the Rails*, <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/rails>. Stories, timeline, maps and more.
- *Archer Audio Archives: The 1930s: 1930–1939*, <http://archer2000.tripod.com/1930.html>. An excellent brief chronology of the decade, with audio clips from radio and recordings of the period.
- *AmericanPresident.org*, <http://www.americanpresident.org/history>. Check out the biographies of Presidents Hoover and FDR.
- *A Biography of America: FDR and the Depression*, <http://www.learner.org/biographyofamerica/prog21>. Easy to navigate information, timeline and photos.
- *Digital History*: <http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/modules>. Take a look at the module on the Great Depression.
- *The New Deal Network*, <http://newdeal.feri.org>. Music, political cartoons, speeches, and other primary documents of the period.
- *Twentieth Century Inventions 1900–1999*, <http://inventors.about.com/library/weekly/aa122299a.htm>. Year by year highlights with links to further information.
- *WWW-VL: HISTORY: USA: 1930–1939*, <http://vlib.iue.it/history/USA/ERAS/20TH/1930s.html>. An umbrella site offering many links arranged in the form of an outline of the decade.

Supplemental Resources

Fiction

Barn Burner by Patricia Willis. Scholastic Paperbacks, 2002. ISBN 0439305284. It's 1933. After fleeing an abusive father, Ross Cooper finds himself mistaken for an arsonist, and barely escapes being jailed. He falls in with a poor family, whose struggles cause him to reflect on the meaning of family and the pressures of hard times.

Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis. Yearling, 2002. ISBN 0440413281. Bud is a down-on-his-luck kid who lights out to look for the man he's convinced is his father. His journey takes him through the world of soup lines, jazz, hobo shantytowns, unionization efforts, segregation and the poverty of the Depression, on his way to finding a place to belong. Multiple award winner.

Cat Running by Zilpha Keatley Snyder. Yearling, 1996. ISBN 0440411521. Cat's family troubles cause her to make a secret place for herself in a grotto. When she finds her retreat invaded, and by a dirty "Okie" child from shantytown at that, she is furious. But gradually Cat befriends the child and her family, and learns about tolerance, friendship and dignity.

Dovey Coe by Frances O'Rourke Dowell. Aladdin, 2001. ISBN 0689846673. Outspoken Dovey can't stand her sister's smug, two-faced boyfriend. But is it in her to kill him? When Parnell Caraway turns up dead, Dovey finds herself on trial for murder.

Fire on the Wind by Linda Crew. Laurel Leaf, 1997. ISBN 0440219612. Storie's logger father believes the trees will last forever. But as Storie sees the results of clear cutting on the land and animals, she wonders. Then comes the summer of 1933, and Oregon's Tillamook Burn. This character drama offers a glimpse of environmental issues and gender roles in the 1930s.

The Gawgon and the Boy by Lloyd Alexander. Puffin Books, 2003. ISBN 0142500003. Details of Depression life form the context for this warm, witty, story. David ("The Boy") is tutored by his eccentric aunt (The Gawgon) while recovering from an illness. She shares an exciting world of books and ideas that spark his interest and kindle his imagination as school never has. When his aunt dies, David must look inside for ways to inspire his talents and claim her wisdom.

Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck. Penguin Books, 2001. ISBN 0140292926. This classic tale of the Joad family of Oklahoma, as they flee to California in search of work and a new start, brilliantly evokes the hardships of the Dust Bowl years.

Hitch by Jeanette Ingold. Harcourt Children's Books, 2005. ISBN 0152047476. In an engaging coming-of-age story, Ingold explores the culture of FDR's Civilian Conservation Corps. Seventeen-year-old Moss Trawnley ends up working for the CCC after being fired from his job in preference to an older man with a family.

A Long Way from Chicago by Richard Peck. Puffin Books, 2004. ISBN 0142401102. Newbery Honor Book, ALA Notable Book. This hilarious novel is made up of related short stories. Mary Alice and her brother, visiting from Chicago, get involved in Grandma Dowdle's antics, which keep things lively in her little town and often dispense a roundabout justice. Check out the sequel, *A Year Down Yonder*, too.

Mister Boots by Carol Emshwiller. Viking Juvenile, 2005. ISBN 0670059684. While Bobby's mother and sister work to make money for the family, Bobby explores the California desert around their home, and

there he finds a magical shape-changing creature. This Depression-era fantasy is one of a kind.

Nowhere to Call Home by Cynthia DeFelice. HarperTrophy, 2001. ISBN 0380733064. After her wealthy father's suicide, 12-year-old Frances disguises herself as a boy to ride the rails rather than be sent to live with an aunt she dislikes. Immerse students in the Depression era world of hobos and shantytowns.

Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse. Scholastic Paperbacks, 1999. ISBN 0590371258. Newbery Medal, ALA Notable Book, Scott O'Dell Historical Fiction Award. Arranged by seasons, this moving novel chronicles in poetry the Dust Bowl years experiences of a farm girl from Oklahoma.

A Part of the Sky by Robert Newton Peck. Random House Books for Young Readers, 1997. ISBN 0679886966. In this sequel to Peck's acclaimed *A Day No Pigs Would Die*, young Robert Peck has taken on responsibility for the family's Vermont farm after his father's death. An emotionally satisfying look at life for a Shaker family during the Depression.

Rainmaker by Alison Jackson. Boyd Mills Press, 2005. ISBN 1590783093. It's 1939, and Pidge and her Florida neighbors will lose their farms if it doesn't rain soon. Can an eccentric old woman who claims the power to bring the rain save them? A Depression coming-of-age story based on a real incident.

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred Taylor. Puffin Books, 1991. ISBN 014034893X. Newbery Medal. The Logans, a landowning black family in Mississippi cotton country, try to keep their land at the height of the Depression, as tensions between blacks and whites escalate to terrifying levels of cruelty, injustice and violence.

Someone to Watch Over Me by Jill Churchill. Avon, 2002. ISBN 0061031232. This is a nicely plotted murder mystery set on a New York estate shortly after the stock market crash. Lily Brewster and her brother Robert work to fulfill the terms by which they will inherit the family estate, while trying to solve the puzzles of two deaths—one new and one very old.

The Spirit Catchers: An Encounter with Georgia O'Keeffe by Kathleen V. Kudlinski. Watson-Guptill Publications, 2004. ISBN 0823004082. This unusual title in the *Art Encounters* series involves fictional teen Parker with real-life Depression era artist O'Keefe in the New Mexico desert, where he first steals a camera and then becomes her assistant. A fascinating look at the famous painter and her time and place.

The Storyteller's Daughter by Jean Thesman. Puffin Books, 1999. ISBN 014130314X. Set in and around Depression-era Boston, this novel follows 15-year-old Quinn as she goes looking for her missing father, whose image as a beloved storyteller doesn't square with rumors of his involvement with bootlegging.

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston. Harper Perennial Modern Classics, 2006. ISBN 0061120065. Hurston's use of black Southern dialect, in this story of the unconventional Janie Crawford whose life scandalizes folks in Eaton, Florida in the 1930s, was controversial. But her work is praised now for its ring of truth, standing with the best of Harlem Renaissance literature.

Walking on Air by Kelly Easton. Margaret K. McElderry, 2004. ISBN 0689848757. June is the daughter of a poor revival preacher who has fallen on hard times. To attract an audience, June does a tightrope-walking act while her father preaches. But her father is jailed and the family's fortunes worsen. Bible stories and fairy tales weave through this evocative story of taking control of your own life.

Nonfiction

Children of the Great Depression by Russell Freedman. Houghton Mifflin, 2006. ISBN 0618446303.

Life: Our Century in Pictures for Young People, edited by Richard B. Stolley. Little, Brown and Company, 2000. ISBN 0316815896.

Louis Armstrong by Sam Tanenhaus. Chelsea House, 1988. ISBN 0791002217. Armstrong was at the peak of his talent and creativity in the 1930s, and the Depression impacted him on many levels. This biography tells his story and provides commentary on his times.

A Multicultural Portrait of the Great Depression by Susan Rensberger. Benchmark Books, 1995. ISBN 0791002217. A good overview of the Great Depression, this book emphasizes less-covered topics like the impact of the Depression on arts and culture, gender and family roles, and experiences of specific ethnic groups.

Never Met a Man I Didn't Like by Will Rogers. Harper Paperbacks, 1991. ISBN 0380768089. Witty, plain-spoken Rogers became "the voice of the nation" during the 1920s and '30s, using Wild West shows, the Ziegfeld Follies, radio, and movies to offer his wry commentary on human nature and the experiences of a generation.

Our American Century: Events that Shaped the Century by the editors of Time-Life Books. Time-Life, 1998. ISBN 0783555024.

The Seventeenth Child by Dorothy Marie Rice & Lucille Mabel Walthall Payne. Linnet Books, 1998. ISBN 0208024158. Mabel Walthall was the 17th child in a black sharecropper family, growing up during the Depression. In brief anecdotes, she shares memories that form a straightforward, unadorned account of the times.

Visual Timeline of the 20th Century by Simon Adams. Dorling Kindersley, 1996. ISBN 0789409976.

Nonprint

Dust Bowl Ballads by Woody Guthrie. Buddha Records, 2000 (Music CD). ASIN B00004TY8S. Guthrie, a pioneer in the field of using folk music to express the struggles of the working man, gives voice to many aspects of the 1930s.

Historic Travel US: In the Grip of the Great Depression—Volume 1. Studio A2ZCDS, 2005 (2 DVD set). ASIN B0007RR716.

Web Sites

- *1930s Great Depression Gallery, Michigan Historical Museum*, <http://www.sos.state.mi.us/history/museum/explore/museums/hismus/1900-75/depressn/>.
- *American Architecture—Twentieth Century—1930–1939*, http://www.greatbuildings.com/types/usa/usa_1930-1939.html.
- *Film History of the 1930s*, <http://www.filmsite.org/30sintro.html>.
- *Media History Timeline: The 1930s*, <http://www.mediahistory.umn.edu/time/1930s.html>. Very detailed chronology of noteworthy events.
- *A Science Odyssey: Then + Now*, <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aso/thenandnow>. A chronology with a focus on advances in science and technology.
- *Southern Music Network*, <http://www.southernmusic.net/1930.htm>. An interesting overview the decade's music.

The 1940s

- Student Guide
- Suggested Resources
- Events and Issues Timeline: America and the World
- Events and Issues Timeline: Family Life, Work, and School
- Events and Issues Timeline: Science and Technology
- Events and Issues Timeline: Key Social Issues
- Events and Issues Timeline: Arts, Sports, and Culture
- Supplemental Resources

Dynamic Decades: America in the 1940s

Student Guide

Dear Student,

Meet Emily Granger and George Reynolds. These fictional characters, whose lives exactly spanned the 20th century, will accompany you as you explore life in America in the 1960s. Emily is a woman of European ancestry, who grew up in a rural Alabama town. George is African American, and lived his life in the Chicago area. Born in 1900, both are in their forties during the 1940s. Through letters, which you find later in this Student Guide, they will share bits of their stories and offer personal perspectives on events and issues of the period. As you study the 1940s, keep in mind how Emily and George might have felt about or been involved in the events and issues you encounter. Try to see things through their eyes, so that in your unit project you can reflect their experiences and perspectives.

In this unit, you will be part of a group, researching a particular aspect of the 1940s, sharing your findings with your group, and working cooperatively to plan and present a project that demonstrates in a creative way what you've learned. You may be asked to form, and defend, a personal position on a key event or issue of the decade. And it was a dramatic, dangerous decade indeed!

The 1940s

As the 1940s dawned, war was spreading throughout Europe, Asia, and Africa. Though World War I had thrust the USA onto the world stage, Americans were reluctant players. Depression woes at home had narrowed Americans' sights. President Roosevelt wanted Americans to assist in what he saw as the global defense of democracy, but couldn't raise enough support to enter the war. By the time the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in 1941, forcing America's hand, the global picture was dire. Only England remained as a viable opponent to the horrors of Nazi Germany and the Axis powers.

Still, once engaged, Americans put their hearts into the war effort. American troops poured onto the various fronts, American factories geared up for wartime production, American women went to work to keep the newly-thriving economy going, and American children participated in safety drills, victory gardens, and salvage drives. People bought war bonds, put up blackout curtains, and used ration coupons. The entertainment industry produced radio programs, newsreels, movies, songs, and live entertainment to maintain patriotic fervor. The war dominated every aspect of American life, unifying and invigorating a disheartened people. Soldiers who died or were wounded in battle were honored as heroes. Those who returned as victors met with a jubilant reception and unprecedented aid in the form of the GI Bill.

But the end of the war and the immediate post-war years were also fraught with worries. The highly controversial American decision to end the war by using the fearsome atomic bomb ushered in the Nuclear Age. Women, who had experienced a heady taste of independence and job opportunity during the war, were expected to give way as men returned to their homes and jobs. Finally, the beginnings of the Cold War, which resulted from end-of-war tensions, gave Americans and the world much to ponder about their collective future.



Emily Granger

Emily Maude (Grantham) Granger, born January 1, 1900; died December 31, 1999. Emily's grandparents came to America from Germany in the 1880s. Her father was a U.S. Army Lieutenant and her mother a homemaker; Emily was the youngest of five children. Her family lived in the small coal mining town of Blocton, Alabama. Emily's father died in France in 1918, fighting for the Allies in World War I. Emily graduated from the local high school and married her high school sweetheart, Joseph Granger, in 1919. The Grangers had four daughters. Emily was a homemaker until her husband died in 1942 while serving as a soldier in World War II. She went to work at a factory in Birmingham to support the war effort. Emily lost her job when the soldiers returned after the War. She lived out her life in Birmingham with her oldest daughter, enjoying a large family of children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great -great grandchildren.

George Reynolds

George Abraham Reynolds, born January 1, 1900; died December 31, 1999. George was African American, the son of a Pullman porter and a seamstress; the grandson of slaves. He had an older brother and a younger sister. George was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. He graduated from the University of Chicago in 1922, and pursued a career as a newspaper reporter for a publication written for African Americans. George married Francine Norris in 1926. He and his wife had a son and two daughters. He retired in 1972; his wife died in 1978.



May 23, 1943

Dear Cousin Rachel,

Thanks for your letter. It's kind of you to worry about me, but really, I'm doing OK. Of course, I miss Joseph every day. Some days are harder than others. But at least I don't keep expecting him to walk in the door, like some widows I know. He'd been gone for eight months and, while it's sad to say, I'd sort of gotten used to it. And the change of scene is good—it was never *THIS* door he'd walk in, anyway. I know he died with honor for an important cause, but it's hard to feel kindly toward any war that could take him away from me. Some days, God help me, I wish we'd left the rest of the world to fight its own battles! But I know that's selfish.

I'm setting into my new life here in Birmingham. Evelyn and Gerald are so kind to take me in. I hate to intrude on them—they're still practically newlyweds! But they never make me feel like a bother. The fact is, since I started working at the Continental Plant making gun shields, we don't see that much of each other. Gerald is still in school, but he plans to enlist in the Navy as soon as this term is over. I think he's glad to know that Evelyn won't be alone when he's gone. In the meantime, he's started giving blood at the Red Cross. Evelyn talks about joining that new Navy auxiliary for women, but Gerald won't hear of it, and I must say I'm glad. Evelyn leaves for the restaurant before I get home from work and doesn't get home until late. She cooks at work, so I cook at home! I'm happy to do it, even though I'm tired when I get home.

How are you doing with the new sugar rationing? We don't mind so much, but I know what a sweet tooth you have! We have more trouble with the coffee. It's gotten so a cup of coffee is a rare treat. What will it be next? We're putting in a little victory garden out back. Now that will keep us all busy! And it seems that the young folks in the neighborhood are always stopping by for one thing or another. If it isn't newspapers, it's tin foil. They seem eager to do their part.

You know, it's a funny thing about working. I like earning my own money, but I've never handled money much before. Joseph always did all that. Gerald is helping me and insists I can learn, but it feels strange.

I bought a new radio for the apartment. I must say, I have it on most of the time when I'm home. Should I be embarrassed to admit that I enjoy Superman along with the Andrews Sisters, Glen Miller, and the news? I find some of the recipe ideas helpful, too. After your last letter, we took your advice and went to see that Abbott & Costello movie at the theater. I laughed so hard I cried! It certainly made me forget about my troubles for a while.

Speaking of the radio, the kids have just turned it up in the next room and are laughing something crazy! I bet they're doing that new "jitterbug" dance again! I don't think I could ever move that fast, and I fear for the furniture! But they certainly have a good time with it, and it is entertaining to watch. In fact, I think I'll go enjoy the show. . .

Don't worry about me. I'm fine. Write soon with your news.

*Love to you all,
Emily*

November 4, 1948

Dear Francine,

Well, what do you know, he did it! Another term for Truman. I appreciate that he ended segregation in the military and all, but still I'm glad he won't get four terms like FDR. It made me uneasy to think of any man in that job for that long. Did you head for the bar and see his speech on TV? I just can't get over the fact that our President can talk directly to the whole country, and we can see and hear history being made, right at the moment it's happening. It's sure going to change the way news is reported.

I miss you! The conference is interesting. Today we talked about how our different cities and newspapers are reacting to increased interest rates. Will they really bring down inflation? Who do they hurt most? It's always interesting to compare notes with other reporters, especially from black newspapers like *The Daily Defender*. But I'd sure rather be home with you! And I've got to say, we black folks have our troubles in Chicago, but it's nothing like what I've seen here in Atlanta. It's actually state law here that blacks and whites can't eat together in restaurants. And it's a good thing my man Jackie Robinson went to the Dodgers! How do you suppose he feels about this law: White baseball teams can't even PLAY within two blocks of a black team's field, and vice versa!

Another hot topic here is the House Un-American Activities Committee. I've heard everything from "You can't be too careful. Those Commies can't wait to come and take over our country, you know," to "Whatever happened to free speech in this country?" Which, you'd think, would be the prevailing view among a bunch of journalists. But you'd be surprised how many are speaking out against the Hollywood Ten, as though they were really afraid that a bunch of moviemakers were out to bring down the government! Seems like we'd be wiser to worry about Russia and China. You know how I feel about it all, and lots of people here agree with me. But it's always good for a lively debate over lunch!

How is little Robbie? Don't you dare teach him to say "Grandma" while I'm gone! One of the guys here has a Polaroid Land Camera, and I think I'm going to look for one when I get back. Just think what a kick Robbie would get out of seeing pictures

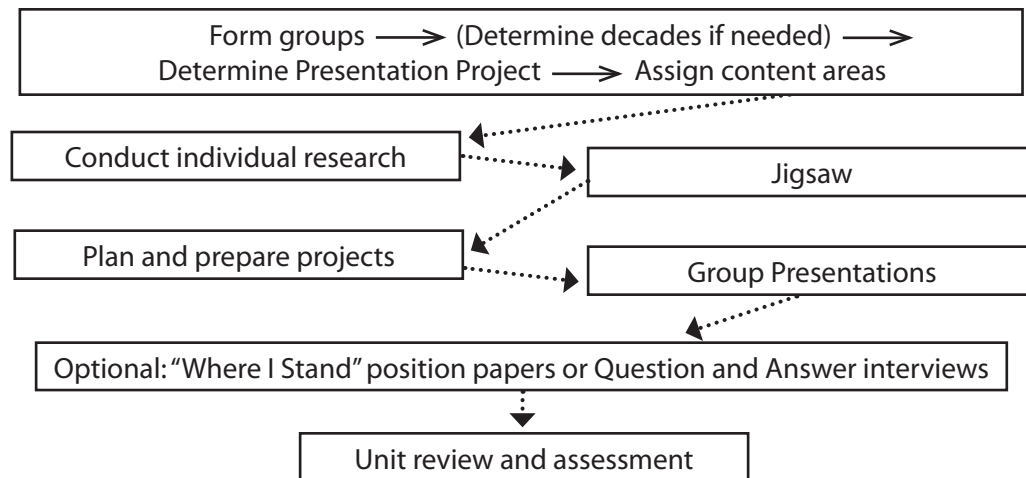
of himself right after they're taken!

*Well, time to go. I might beat this letter home, but I wanted to send it anyway.
Don't go dancing without me—I'll be home before you know it.*

*Love from your one and only,
George*

Now that you've been introduced to Emily, George, and the 1940s, you're ready to begin. This section will take you through the project, step by step. Enjoy your exploration of this *Dynamic Decade*!

Here's an overview.



Steps to follow:

- Form your group, determine the decade(s) you'll study, the project you will present, and when your presentation is due. Write the appropriate information on your *Dynamic Decades* Student Assignment Form. Optional presentation projects include:
 - Write, stage, costume, rehearse, and present an original "American Life in the 1940s" skit
 - Create, explain, read excerpts from, and display a "Decade in Review" newspaper
 - Create, explain, and demonstrate a "Fascinating Facts" quiz game
- Which content area(s) will you research for your group? Write it or them on your *Dynamic Decades* Student Assignment Form.
 - America and the world
 - Family life, work, and school
 - Science and technology
 - Key social issues
 - Arts, sports, and culture
- Use resources from the Suggested Resources list or others recommended by your teacher to research your content area(s). Follow the Big6 research process or another process explained by your teacher. Use the Research Worksheet to help you find, record, and organize information. Use your Chronology and Issues sheets to orient you to your decade(s) and as sources for specific events or items to investigate and incorporate in your group's project. NOTE: You will turn in your Research Worksheet and your notes, so keep them neat and readable!
- Meet in Jigsaw groups with other specialists in your content area. Exchange ideas and take notes on your Research Worksheet or additional paper.
- Check out new sources or ideas from your content specialist meeting.

6. Report on your content area to your original group.
7. Plan and prepare your presentation project, fine tuning and supplementing your individual research as needed for the project. Be sure to build all the requirements from your Project Guidelines sheet into your project. Be creative, and don't forget to include George's and Emily's viewpoints in your project.
8. Present your group's project to the class.
9. (Prepare and present your "Where I Stand" position paper or Question & Answer interview, if assigned.)
10. Participate in the unit review and turn in your worksheet and notes.

Dynamic Decades: 1940s

America and the World

1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
FDR first U.S. President elected to third term	Office of Production Management to support Allies with defense production	Executive Order 9066 internment of Japanese Americans	Chinese Exclusion Act repealed	D-Day Allied forces invade Nazi-controlled Europe	FDR dies	First United Nations meeting, London	"Cold War" begins, with Truman's policies to fight communism	Congress approves \$6 billion for Marshall Plan post-war rebuilding of Europe	Air Force plane makes first nonstop flight around world
Office of Emergency Management created to oversee war preparations	Congress passes Lend-Lease Act to help Allied war effort	Manhattan Project approved	World's longest oil pipeline run, Texas to Pennsylvania	FDR first U.S. President elected to fourth term	U.S. troops capture Iwo Jima	U.S. scientists build first computer (ENIAC)	W. Libby develops carbon-14 dating method, Chicago	Truman elected President	NATO formed
	FDR and Churchill sign Atlantic Charter	first nuclear power generator built, Chicago			Germany surrenders, war in Europe ends	Philippine Islands given full independence		Bell Lab develops transistor to amplify radio signals	Rocket sets new altitude record, NM
	Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor, U.S. enters war	U.S. defeats Japan in Battle of Midway			U.S. drops atomic bombs on Japanese cities	United Nations bans atomic bomb		first microwave oven	Permanent UN headquarters dedicated, NY
		Bracero program allows 100,000 Mexican farm workers			Japan surrenders, WWII ends			OAS formed	Truman proposes Point Four program of technical aid to poor nations
					VE/VJ Day celebrations			Poet T. S. Eliot wins Nobel literature prize	
					U.S. troops free 32,000 prisoners from Dachau concentration camp			UN adopts Universal Declaration of Human Rights	

KEY ISSUES

- America prepares for, then enters and wholeheartedly supports war effort
- U.S. participation critical to winning the war
- U.S. unleashes the Atomic Age
- War demands end economic depression and produce era of prosperity
- U.S. participates in postwar healing via the Marshall Plan, the United Nations
- Fear of foreign communism spreading sparks Cold War, suspicion of "un-American activities" at home
- Postwar concerns prompt new defensive alliances (NATO, OAS)

Dynamic Decades: 1940s

Family Life, Work, and School

1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Dozen eggs cost 33 cents, quart milk 13 cents	Car tire rationing begins	Sugar, coffee, gas rationed	Canned goods, meat, cheese rationed	Congress passes GI Bill	Soldiers return, "baby boom" begins!	Word "teenager" coined by <i>Mayfair</i> magazine	War-time rationing ends	Post-war housing boom begins with Levittown, NY	Timex sells low-cost wrist watches
FDR declares unlimited state of emergency	Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor, U.S. enters war	Michigan auto plants converted to make military equipment	FDR freezes wages, prices, salaries	42% of west coast aircraft plant workers are women	Truman restores consumer products, free market economy	Benjamin Spock publishes <i>Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care</i>	Taft-Hartley Act limits power of labor unions	Baskin-Robbins ice cream chain opens	Minimum wage rises to 75 cents per hour
American literacy hits 4% low	"Rosie the Riveter" symbol for women in factories	Over 6 million victory gardens planted	World's longest oil pipeline run, Texas to Pennsylvania		Soldiers return to work force, displacing many women workers	Electric blanket introduced	Planned Parenthood announces 98% of doctors favor birth control	First McDonalds drive-in opens	General Motors announces record profits
		Bracero program allows 100,000 Mexican farm workers	FDR expands normal work week from 40 to 48 hours		National dim-out order to save fuel	Inflation spirals		Religious education in public schools declared unconstitutional	Hollywood Ten sues producers for loss of jobs
					Michigan auto plants resume car manufacture	"Slinky" new toy craze		Controversial Kinsey report, <i>Sexual Behavior in the Human Male</i> , published	

KEY ISSUES

- The nation gears up for war, accepting growing government restrictions and controls, including first peacetime military draft
- The nation wholeheartedly supports the war effort, "making do," buying war bonds, growing victory gardens, etc.
- Women enter work force in large numbers when men go off to war, are displaced when soldiers return
- War casualties create hardship for families, communities
- War demands end economic depression and produce era of prosperity
- Fear of communism's spread sparks Cold War, suspicion of "un-American activities" at home
- GI Bill provides postwar assistance to soldiers for housing and education
- Postwar "baby boom" begins to swell families
- Families drawn to low-cost, suburban tract housing, owning their own homes

Dynamic Decades: 1940s

Science and Technology

1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
First electron microscope demonstrated	First FM radio stations on air	Manhattan Project approved	World's longest oil pipeline run, Texas to Pennsylvania		Atom bomb tested, NM	U.S. scientists build ENIAC computer	LP phonograph record developed	Bell Lab develops transistor to amplify radio signals	Air Force plane makes first nonstop flight around world
	First aerosol spray cans used	First American jets tested			First use of fluoride in municipal water, MI	Electric blanket introduced	Polaroid camera technology developed	First microwave oven	Timex sells low-cost wrist watches
		First nuclear power generator built, Chicago				American Academy of Dental Medicine founded	W. Libby develops carbon-14 dating method, Chicago	Hale telescope dedicated to study distant stars	Rocket sets new rocket altitude record, NM
		Chicago's first subway opens				U.S. Public Health Service announces polio epidemic	First ballistic missile rocket fired	U.S. Air Force begins Project Blue Book to investigate popular reports of "flying saucer" sightings	Cortisone first used to treat arthritis
		Red Cross begins collecting blood to help war wounded					Chuck Yeager flies first aircraft to break sound barrier		First rocket reaches outer space
							Harley-Davidson introduces new engine design		First public warnings of dangers of smoking
							Planned Parenthood announces 98% of doctors favor birth control		

KEY ISSUES

- Most technical research, advances redirected to support the war effort
- Continuing advances in transportation, engineering
- Medical advances focus on treating battle injuries: use of penicillin, blood transfusions, prosthetic limbs, plastic surgery, etc.
- Use of atomic bomb creates controversy in scientific world
- Civilians benefit from wartime medical, technological advances
- Public interest in space builds with many sightings of "flying saucers"

Dynamic Decades: 1940s

Key Social Issues

1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
FDR first U.S. President elected to third term	Office of Production Management to support Allies with defense production	Executive Order 9066 internment of Japanese Americans	Chinese Exclusion Act repealed	FDR first U.S. President elected to fourth term	FDR dies	Truman establishes Atomic Energy Commission	"Cold War" begins with Truman's policies to fight communism	Margaret C. Smith is first woman elected to U.S. Senate	NATO formed
U.S. population reaches 132 million	USO created to entertain U.S. troops	War Manpower Commission starts to coordinate available workers	Race riots in Detroit, NYC	Congress passes GI Bill	Germany surrenders, war in Europe ends	United Nations bans atomic bomb	Jackie Robinson first black player in major-league baseball	Congress approves \$6 billion for Marshall Plan post-war rebuilding of Europe	Nationwide steel workers strike
Office of Emergency Management created to oversee war preparations	Congress passes Lend-Lease Act to help Allied war effort	Congress establishes Emergency Farm Labor Program	FDR ends racial discrimination in government contract industries	WAVES and SPAR open to black women	U.S. drops atomic bombs on Japanese cities	Inflation spirals	Truman is first President to address nation on TV	Truman elected President	Permanent UN headquarters dedicated, NY
FDR signs Selective Service Act, establishing first peacetime military draft	March on Washington to end racial discrimination in defense industry jobs	Pittsburgh Courier campaigns for victory abroad and victory over prejudice at home	Zoot Suit Riot in Los Angeles	Ralph Bunche first black State Department official	Japan surrenders, WWII ends		Congress passes 22nd Amendment, limiting Presidents to 2 terms	Religious education in public schools declared unconstitutional	Minimum wage rises to 75 cents per hour
Office of Price Administration to control wages, prices	Office of Civilian Defense helps communities prepare for war	Bracero program allows in 100,000 Mexican farm workers	Pentagon building dedicated to house War Department		VE/VJ Day celebrations		Truman mandates loyalty check for government workers	Truman orders end to racial segregation in U.S. military	Poet Ezra Pound wins Bollingen prize, sparks controversy
FDR declares unlimited state of emergency	Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor, U.S. enters war	Women accepted into military (WAAACS, WAVES, WAACS, SPAR)			Truman restores consumer products, free market economy		Taft-Hartley Act limits power of labor unions	Controversial Kinsey report, <i>Sexual Behavior in the Human Male</i> , published	Hollywood Ten sues producers for loss of jobs
first black Army officer appointed	Many women go to work in U.S. factories				Poet Ezra Pound arrested for treason		Play <i>Annie Get Your Gun</i> banned in TN for interracial cast		Average American lives 66.8 years
American literacy hits 4% low					Soldiers return to work force, displacing many women workers		House Committee on Un-American Activities established		

KEY ISSUES

- The nation gears up for war, accepting growing government restriction and controls including first peacetime military draft
- The nation wholeheartedly supports the war effort, buying war bonds, growing victory gardens, etc.
- War needs (China as ally, shortage of farm labor, etc.) prompt changes in immigration policies
- Women enter work force in large numbers when men go off to war, are displaced when soldiers return
- Awareness of racism broadens as Japanese, Italian, and German Americans face dramatic acts of discrimination
- Use of atomic bomb creates controversy
- War casualties create hardship for families, communities
- Women, African Americans make gains in rights and freedoms
- Fear of communism's spread sparks Cold War, suspicion of "un-American activities" at home
- War demands end economic depression and produce era of prosperity

Dynamic Decades: 1940s

Arts, Sports, and Culture

1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
First <i>Batman</i> comics	C. Moulton creates <i>Wonder Woman</i> character	WWII movie <i>Casablanca</i> released	Film <i>For Whom the Bell Tolls</i> opens	<i>Seventeen</i> magazine debuts	<i>Ebony</i> magazine launched	Movie <i>It's a Wonderful Life</i> opens	Jackie Robinson first black player in major-league baseball	Baskin-Robbins ice cream chain opens	<i>Death of a Salesman</i> opens on Broadway
Radio program <i>Superman</i> debuts	Movie <i>Citizen Kane</i> released	Abbott & Costello major box office draw	A. Copeland's "Fanfare for the Common Man" premieres	Betty Grable, Bing Crosby top film stars	Radio show <i>Ozzie & Harriet</i> debuts	First heavy-weight boxing match on TV, Joe Louis keeps title	LP phonograph record developed	Olympic games, London	First TV westerns
Disney film <i>Fantasia</i> opens	National Gallery of Art opens, Washington DC	American Federation of Musicians strikes against recording industry	<i>Okla!oma!</i> Opens on Broadway	Teens swoon over Frank Sinatra	Orwell's <i>Animal Farm</i> best seller	Word "teenager" coined by <i>Mayfair</i> magazine	"New Look" in women's fashions	Poet T. S. Eliot wins Nobel literature prize	Rhythm and blues music emerging
Charlie Chaplin's film <i>The Great Dictator</i> pokes fun at Hitler	CBS, NBC offer regular commercial TV	"Zoot suit" wins favor of blacks and Hispanics in Harlem	Jackson Pollock's first solo exhibition	First paperback books published	Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie introduce "bebop" jazz	first film shown on commercial airline flight	NY Yankees win first televised World Series	<i>Othello</i> first televised Metropolitan Opera performance	Poet Ezra Pound wins Bollingen prize, sparks controversy
Billie Holiday's song "Strange Fruit" causes controversy	Rose Bowl moved from CA to NC because of security concerns	Edward Hopper paints <i>Nighthawks</i>	All-American Girls Baseball League formed	Martha Graham dances to Copland's <i>Appalachian Spring</i>	Poet Ezra Pound arrested for treason	Dr. Benjamin Spock publishes <i>Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care</i>	<i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> opens on Broadway	First McDonalds drive-in opens	Jackie Robinson named National League MVP
Richard Wright's <i>Native Son</i> published	<i>Maltese Falcon</i> starts film noir genre		Jitterbug dancing the rage		<i>Carousel</i> premieres on Broadway	Bikini bathing suit introduced	<i>Play Annie Get Your Gun</i> banned in TN for inter-racial cast	Citation wins Triple Crown	Musical <i>South Pacific</i> opens on Broadway
Steinbeck wins Pulitzer Prize for <i>Grapes of Wrath</i>	DiMaggio achieves longest hitting streak in Major League history				Andrews Sisters favorites on radio	Marilyn Monroe hits the big screen	First reports of "flying saucers"	<i>Howdy Doody</i> TV takes off	First Emmy Awards

KEY ISSUES

- Americans seek distraction from war concerns through entertainment
- "Golden Age" of film, radio
- War tensions make superhero characters popular
- In music, jazz and bebop highlighted focus on individual expression
- Lavish Broadway musicals increasingly popular
- Barriers fall in baseball, with hiring of Jackie Robinson and creation of All-American Girls League
- Clothing during wartime is practical and utilitarian; nation welcomes fashion's "New Look" after the war
- Arts increasingly used to comment on politics, social issues
- "Teenage" defined as life stage with its own culture

Suggested Resources

Print

The 1940s by Michael V. Uschan (A Cultural History of the United States through the Decades series). Lucent Books, 1998. ISBN 1565105540.

The 1940s by Ken Hills (Take Ten Years series). Evans Brothers, Limited, 1996. ISBN 0237516810.

The 1940s: From World War II to Jackie Robinson by Stephen Feinstein (Decades of the 20th Century series). Enslow, 2006. ISBN 0766026345.

All the People 1945–2001 (A History of Us series, Volume 10) by Joy Hakim. Oxford University Press, 2002. ISBN 0195153383.

America in the 1940s by Charles A. Wills (Decades of American History series). Facts on File, 2005. ISBN 0816056390.

Bowling, Beatniks, and Bell-Bottoms: Pop Culture of 20th Century America edited by Sara Pendergast and Tom Pendergast. Thomson Gale, 2002 (Volume 3). ISBN 078765678X.

The Century for Young People by Peter Jennings, Todd Brewster, and Jennifer Armstrong. Doubleday Books for Young Readers, 1999. ISBN 0385327080.

Fashions of a Decade: The 1940s by Patricia Baker. Chelsea House Publications, 2006. (Fashions of a Decade series). ISBN 0816067201.

Oxford Children's Book of the 20th Century: A Concise Guide to a Century of Contrast and Change by Stewart Ross. Oxford University Press, 1999. ISBN 0195214889.

The United States in World War II 1941–1945 by Christopher Collier and James Lincoln Collier. Benchmark Books, 2001. ISBN 0761413162.

UXL American Decades—1940–1949 edited by Tom Pendergast and Sara Pendergast. UXL, 2002. ISBN 0787664596.

War, Peace, and All That Jazz 1918–1945 (A History of Us series, Volume 9) by Joy Hakim. Oxford University Press, 2006. ISBN 0195327233.

Nonprint

Words and Music of World War II by various artists. Sony, 1991 (Audio CD). ASIN: B000008MGK. This 2-disc set features songs, speeches, and radio broadcasts covering highlights of the period from the bombing of Pearl Harbor through the end of the war.

WWII Memorial: A Testament to Freedom directed by Robert Uth. PBS, 2004. UPC: 841887004473. This PBS documentary covers both the construction of the Memorial itself and interviews with a wide range of people who lived through the War, reflecting on the experience and its significance.

Web Sites

- *American Cultural History: 1940–1949*, <http://kclibrary.nhmccd.edu/decade40.html>.
- *Archer Audio Archives: The 1940s: 1940–1949*, <http://archer2000.tripod.com/1940.html>. An excellent brief chronology of the decade with audio clips from radio and recordings of the period.
- *AmericanPresident.org*, <http://www.americanpresident.org/history>. Check out the biographies of Presidents FDR and Truman.
- *A Biography of America: World War II*, <http://www.learner.org/biographyofamerica/prog22>. Easy to navigate information, timeline and photos.
- *Digital History*, <http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/modules>. Take a look at the module on World War II.
- *Eyewitness to World War Two*, <http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/w2frm.htm>.
- *Twentieth Century Inventions 1900–1999*, <http://inventors.about.com/library/weekly/aa122299a.htm>. Year by year highlights with links to further information.
- *WWW-VL: HISTORY: USA: 1940–1949*, <http://www.lib.washington.edu/subject/History/vl/1940s>. An umbrella site offering many links arranged in the form of an outline of the decade.

Supplemental Resources

Fiction

The 1940s: Secrets by Dorothy and Tom Hoobler. The Millbrook Press, 2001. ISBN 0761316043. This continuation of the story of the Aldrich family and their friends, from the *Century Kids* series, focuses on a radio program designed to boost wartime morale, and a child's efforts to uncover the secret of her scientist parents' work at Los Alamos.

The Art of Keeping Cool by Janet Taylor Lisle. Atheneum, 2000. ISBN 0689837879. ALA Notable Book. While his father flies bombers in Europe, Robert joins his father's family in Rhode Island. His life there is complicated by his bullying, authoritarian grandfather; his talented but eccentric cousin; the mystery of his father's estrangement from the family; and the unfolding drama of a German artist accused of spying for the Nazis.

Becoming Joe DiMaggio by Maria Testa. Candlewick Press, 2005. ISBN 0763624446. Testa offers a collection of first person poems written in the voice of her father, an Italian American boy growing up in the mid-1900s. DiMaggio becomes a symbol of hope for the boy and his immigrant grandfather as they struggle to make sense of a new country, a troubled family, and a world at war.

Beyond Paradise by Jane Hertenstein. Morrow Junior Books, 1999. ISBN 0688163815. Louise is the daughter of missionaries serving in the Philippines when the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor. The family is separated; Louise and her mother experience the war in a series of Japanese detention camps. A historically accurate, unusual perspective on Americans in World War II.

Black Boy by Richard Wright. Harper Perennial Modern Classics, 1998. ISBN 0060929782. Published in 1945, this novel is really a fictionalized autobiography that describes the harsh life of poor blacks in the American South during the first half of the 20th century. A powerful, enduring classic.

Code Talker by Joseph Bruchac. Puffin books, 2006. ISBN 0142405965. Bruchac brings his evenhanded, authoritative voice to the story of Ned Begay, a Navajo taken from his Native community to learn English, who enlisted in the Marines and served as a code talker during World War II.

The Cookcamp by Gary Paulsen. Scholastic Reprint, 2003. ISBN 0439523575. With his father away fighting and his mother working in a factory, the boy is sent to his grandmother, who cooks for a road crew in northern Minnesota. Too young to understand events around him, he accepts the affection of his grandmother and the laborers. This touching story takes a look at some of war's less-discussed casualties—marital fidelity, family unity, and childhood security.

Friends and Enemies by Louann Gaeddert. Atheneum, 2000. ISBN 0689828225. William arrives at his new home in a small Kansas town just in time to begin high school. He quickly befriends Jim, a Mennonite classmate. When the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor and patriotic fever overtakes the community, Jim and his pacifist family are despised as cowards and William is caught in the middle.

The Gadget by Paul Zindel. HarperCollins, 2001. ISBN 0060278129. Traumatized by Nazi bombing of London, 13-year-old Stephen is sent to his father in America. Dr. Orr is a physicist working on a top-secret project intended to end the war. Stephen asks forbidden questions and defies the rules to discover the nature of "the gadget." A suspenseful look at the development of the atom bomb, including the nightmare awareness of having opened Pandora's Box.

Good Night, Maman by Norma Fox Mazer. HarperTrophy, 2001. ISBN 0064409236. A little-known episode of World War II involved a shipload of European refugees, mostly Jewish, brought to America at FDR's request. In this book, Karin and Marc Levi flee Paris and go into hiding after their father is arrested. They travel to America on the refugee ship. Their journey and months in a refugee camp are recorded in intimate detail in Karin's letters to her mother.

Lost in America by Marilyn Sachs. Roaring Book Press, 2005. ISBN 1596430400. Nicole, victimized and orphaned by Nazis in France, makes her way to America, where she struggles with her grief, unkind relatives, and adjusting to American culture. Touching, compelling, and sometimes funny.

McKendree by Sandra Belton. Greenwillow, 2000. ISBN 0688159508. Fourteen-year-old Tilara spends the summer of 1948 in a small West Virginia town, where she volunteers at a retirement home and interacts with residents and other young volunteers. Issues of self-acceptance, racism, and young love are explored in this coming-of-age novel.

Scorpio's Child by Keezie Matthews. Cricket Books, 2001. ISBN 081262890X. Fourteen-year-old Afton, grieving for her brother killed in the war, sets out to learn the truth about a mysterious uncle who turns up unexpectedly in her small South Carolina town.

Slap Your Sides: A Novel by M. E. Kerr. HarperCollins, 2003. ISBN 0064472744. Fourteen-year-old Jubal struggles with the reactions of his small town Pennsylvania neighbors when his brother acts on his Quaker beliefs and becomes a conscientious objector rather than going to serve in World War II.

Soldier Boys by Dean Hughes. Simon & Schuster, 2003. ISBN 0689860218. Two teens, one American and one German, rush off to fight for their respective countries, full of patriotic fervor. Both become disillusioned as they experience the realities of war, which reach a high point when the two cross paths at the Battle of the Bulge.

Stepping on the Cracks by Mary Downing Hahn. Clarion Books, 1991. ISBN 0395585074. Scott O'Dell Historical Fiction Award. For sixth graders living a pleasant, simple life in their small town, the war brings unimaginable complications. One day Margaret and Elizabeth's biggest problems is the class bully; the next they face agonizingly conflicted feelings as they help a seriously ill deserter from the Army while their own brothers fight in Europe.

The Summer of My German Soldier by Bette Greene. Puffin Books, 2006. ISBN 0142406511. Patty Bergen, a Jew in a small Southern town and the victim of an abusive father and a critical mother, is used to being different and feeling inferior. When she aids a young escaped German prisoner of war she begins to see herself as a person of value through his eyes, and finds the healing of unexpected friendship.

Two Suns in the Sky by Miriam Bat-Ami. Open Court Publishing, 1999. ISBN 0812629000. This story is set in the Lake Oswego, New York refugee camp, where a group of Jews fleeing Hitler's forces were housed during World War II. A local American girl and a Yugoslavian refugee fall passionately in love, despite their many differences and the intolerance of those around them.

Under the Blood-Red Sun by Graham Salisbury. Laurel Leaf, 2005. ISBN 0553494872. Scott O'Dell Historical Fiction Award. Tomi's Japanese American family has a good life on Oahu. But when the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor, they become suspect, along with all Japanese Americans. His father and grandfather are imprisoned. His mother loses her job; neighbors threaten Tomi and his sister. But they stand strong and friends help him endure. A candid story of courage and honor in the face of shameful cruelty and injustice.

"Who Was That Masked Man Anyway?" by Avi. HarperTrophy, 1994. ISBN 0380721139. Frankie (a.k.a. Chet Barker, Master Spy) is obsessed by radio superheroes who regularly save the world from evil—so consumed that he lets his imagination take over. His plot to expose the family's boarder as the evil Nazi scientist he must be, and in the process marry his teacher off to his brother, who was wounded in the war, brings hilarious and unexpected results.

Nonfiction

American Home Front in World War II: Almanac Volume 1 by Richard Clay Hanes, et al. Thomson Gale, 2004. ISBN 0787676519.

American Home Front in World War II: Biographies Volume 2 by Richard Clay Hanes, et al. Thomson Gale, 2004. ISBN 0787676527.

American Home Front in World War II: Primary Sources Volume 3 by Sharon M. Hanes. Thomson Gale, 2005. ISBN 0787676535.

Life in a Japanese American Internment Camp by Diane Yancey (The Way People Live series). Lucent Books, 1998. ISBN 1560063459.

Life: Our Century in Pictures for Young People, edited by Richard B. Stolley. Little, Brown and Company, 2000. ISBN 0316815896.

The Manhattan Project by Daniel Cohen. Twenty-First Century Books, 1999. ISBN 0761303596.

Our American Century: Events that Shaped the Century by the editors of Time-Life Books. Time-Life, 1998. ISBN 0783555024.

Pearl Harbor by Judy L. Hasday (Great Disasters and Their Reforms series). Chelsea House Publishers, 2001. ISBN 0791052710.

Rosie the Riveter: Women Working on the Home Front in World War II by Penny Colman. Crown Books for Young Readers, 1998. ISBN 0517885670.

Visual Timeline of the 20th Century by Simon Adams. Dorling Kindersley, 1996. ISBN 0789409976.

Nonprint

Casablanca directed by Michael Curtiz. Warner Home Video, 2000 (DVD feature film). ASIN: 6305736650. The quintessential World War II movie.

Swing out to Victory! Songs of WWII by varied artists. Compendia, 1999 (Compact Disk). ASIN: B00000J837. Popular songs of the period make up this snapshot of life during the war for soldiers and on the home front. Such famous names as Bing Crosby, Glenn Miller and His Orchestra and Arthur Fiedler and The Boston Pops perform the songs.

Web Sites

- *American Architecture—Twentieth Century—1940–1949*, http://www.greatbuildings.com/types/usa/usa_1940-1949.html.
- *Film History of the 1940s*, <http://www.filmsite.org/40sintro.html>.
- *GI—World War II Commemoration*, http://gi.grolier.com/wwii/wwii_mainpage.html.
- *Media History Timeline: The 1940s*, <http://www.mediahistory.umn.edu/time/1940s.html>. Very detailed chronology of noteworthy events.
- *A Science Odyssey: Then + Now*, <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aso/thenandnow>. A chronology with a focus on advances in science and technology.
- *Southern Music Network*, <http://www.southernmusic.net/1940.htm>. An interesting overview the decade's music.
- *Thinkquest World War II Homefront Simulation*, <http://library.thinkquest.org/15511/>. Access this student-generated site by title. Explore the experiences of five fictional American families throughout the war.

The 1950s

- Student Guide
- Suggested Resources
- Events and Issues Timeline: America and the World
- Events and Issues Timeline: Family Life, Work, and School
- Events and Issues Timeline: Science and Technology
- Events and Issues Timeline: Key Social Issues
- Events and Issues Timeline: Arts, Sports, and Culture
- Supplemental Resources

Dynamic Decades: America in the 1950s

Student Guide

Dear Student,

Meet Emily Granger and George Reynolds. These fictional characters, whose lives exactly spanned the 20th century, will accompany you as you explore life in America in the 1950s. Emily is a woman of European ancestry, who grew up in a rural Alabama town. George is African American, and lived his life in the Chicago area. Born in 1900, both are in their fifties during the 1950s. Through letters, which you find later in this Student Guide, they will share bits of their stories and offer personal perspectives on events and issues of the period. As you study the 1950s, keep in mind how Emily and George might have felt about or been involved in the events and issues you encounter. Try to see things through their eyes, so that in your unit project you can reflect their experiences and perspectives.

In this unit, you will be part of a group, researching a particular aspect of the 1950s, sharing your findings with your group, and working cooperatively to plan and present a project that demonstrates in a creative way what you've learned. You may be asked to form, and defend, a personal position on a key event or issue of the decade. And it was a dramatic, dangerous decade indeed!

The 1950s

The 1950s are sometimes depicted as a carefree time of wholesome innocence. TV programs like *Leave it to Beaver* and *The Ozzie & Harriet Show* portray lighthearted middle class white families, managed by perfectly groomed mothers in pearls and benignly ruled by dapper fathers in suits and ties. Actually, this decade simmered with political and social tensions that sometimes erupted in violence at home or abroad. The post-World War II economic boom created a state of unprecedented affluence and consumerism. Middle and upper class Americans eagerly enjoyed the benefits of new technology. However, many poor families struggled to recover from wartime losses, and women and minorities continued to experience intolerable discrimination.

While Americans understood the goal of stopping the spread of communism, which led to U.S. involvement in the Korean War, the country was tired of war and the "unwinnable" conflict lost support. Meanwhile, at home schoolchildren were practicing "duck and cover" drills as parents built bomb shelters to protect against nuclear attack by "evil" communists. The space race began as another expression of U.S.-Soviet competition. The largely peaceful protests of the early civil rights movement were stirring up the nation too quickly for some and too slowly for others.

Throughout it all, an expanding media grew in influence and reinforced, among other things, the growing concept of a distinctive "teen culture." Television advertising encouraged the public appetite for leisure spending, while parents and schools began to worry about children spending too much time in front of "the idiot box." As the decade ended, the stage was set for even more tumultuous times to come.

Now let's see what our two fictional characters have to say about life in the 1950s.



Emily Granger

Emily Maude (Grantham) Granger, born January 1, 1900; died December 31, 1999. Emily's grandparents came to America from Germany in the 1880s. Her father was a U.S. Army Lieutenant and her mother a homemaker; Emily was the youngest of five children. Her family lived in the small coal mining town of Blocton, Alabama. Emily's father died in France in 1918, fighting for the Allies in World War I. Emily graduated from the local high school and married her high school sweetheart, Joseph Granger, in 1919. The Grangers had four daughters. Emily was a homemaker until her husband died in 1942 while serving as a soldier in World War II. She went to work at a factory in Birmingham to support the war effort. Emily lost her job when the soldiers returned after the War. She lived out her life in Birmingham with her oldest daughter, enjoying a large family of children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren.

George Reynolds

George Abraham Reynolds, born January 1, 1900; died December 31, 1999. George was African American, the son of a Pullman porter and a seamstress; the grandson of slaves. He had an older brother and a younger sister. George was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. He graduated from the University of Chicago in 1922, and pursued a career as a newspaper reporter for a publication written for African Americans. George married Francine Norris in 1926. He and his wife had a son and two daughters. He retired in 1972; his wife died in 1978.



December 15, 1956

Dear Stuart,

I got your nice letter and the *Peanuts* comic strip you sent along with it. That Charlie Brown! I look forward to seeing what he's up to in the paper each week. Thanks for giving your old Grandma a good laugh. I'm glad to hear what you're doing in school, too. Sorry about your sore arm from the polio vaccine, but you're really lucky, you know? Just a few years ago there was no vaccine, and so many young people suffer from that awful disease. Seems to me that a little ache is a small price to pay.

Speaking of school, have they been keeping you up on all the doings with the bus strike in Montgomery? Looks like the negroes have won that fight, now that the Supreme Court says they can't be pushed around on the buses anymore. And I say hats off to them! They sure surprised everyone with their gumption in sticking to the plan and keeping it peaceful. Seems to me that Parks woman works as hard as anyone, and deserves a peaceful ride home at the end of the day. I have to admit, though, that I'm glad it wasn't Birmingham's buses tied up in knots—I'd never get anywhere! What are they telling you about this fellow Martin Luther King? Around here, it seems like he's everywhere, pumping people up and organizing this and that. He certainly has a silver tongue, that one. Is it just because we're here in Alabama, or do you see him as an up-and-comer, too? I do think we'll be seeing more of him.

Yes, "I Love Lucy" is one of our favorite shows, too. We all enjoy it, even your little cousins. What else do you like to watch? Are you too old for the Mickey Mouse Club? I wouldn't think so, since some of the children on the show are about your age. But you might feel a bit above such things, at the lofty age of 11! It's Gerald Junior's favorite. He can't miss a single day. I hope you're not watching too much TV, though. It can't be good for you. And you never know what you'll see. We happened onto that awful Elvis Presley on *The Ed Sullivan Show*, and I thought I'd die of embarrassment! Please tell me you don't listen to his records. Your mama and daddy would probably have something to say about that. Some of today's music is nice enough—I like that Pat Boone fellow, but Elvis just goes too far. Maybe a stint in the Army will straighten him out.

Well, dear boy, it's about time for me to fix dinner. Your Uncle Gerald will be home soon and hungry, as always, and your cousins are already bothering me for snacks. By the way, Gerald Jr. says hi, and asks when you'll come and play Frisbee with him again! I'm making sweet potatoes and ham tonight—none of those Swanson TV Dinners for us! Between your Aunt Evelyn being a cook and my old-fashioned habits, those things don't find a place in this house. How about you? Do you think they're special treats like Junior, Beth, and Rhonda? Times are surely changing!

Write me again soon. And Merry Christmas to you all!

Grandma Granger

P.S. Don't give up on trying to convince your parents to build that bomb shelter. Who knows if it would really be enough, if we were to have a war with Russia? But it sure can't hurt to be prepared!

August 9, 1959

Dear Racine,

Did you see it? I figured you and Robbie, at least, would be glued to the TV like we were to see the picture of earth from Explorer VI. Wasn't that something? Sure makes you think, doesn't it? Makes me think about how small our planet is in all that space. Makes me think we'd better all figure out a way to get along if we're going to keep from blowing ourselves up! Also makes me wonder what else might be out there. I bet you've had some interesting conversations about it all. Does Robbie still insist he's going to fly into space some day? Tell him for me, he'd better keep those grades up if he expects to get into NASA's astronaut training program. Has he seen any flying saucers lately? Who knows? Maybe he'll be the first person to meet real live Martians! ("Take me to your leader!")

In the meantime, is Mike keeping him challenged at the chess board? He's going to have to get cracking, to catch up with Bobby Fischer. Maybe he can be the youngest black International Grand Master when he's 15! That would make those NASA folks sit up and take notice!

It's hot as blazes here this week. Thank goodness for Bermuda shorts, though your mama still giggles every time she sees me in them. Something about my bony knees, I guess. But they make this Chicago heat bearable. And I just tease her right back about trying to look like a young thing again, using that Clairol dye on her gray hair. At least I'm not afraid to show myself, bony knees and all, just as I am! Though I admit, your mama looks fine, for an old girl!

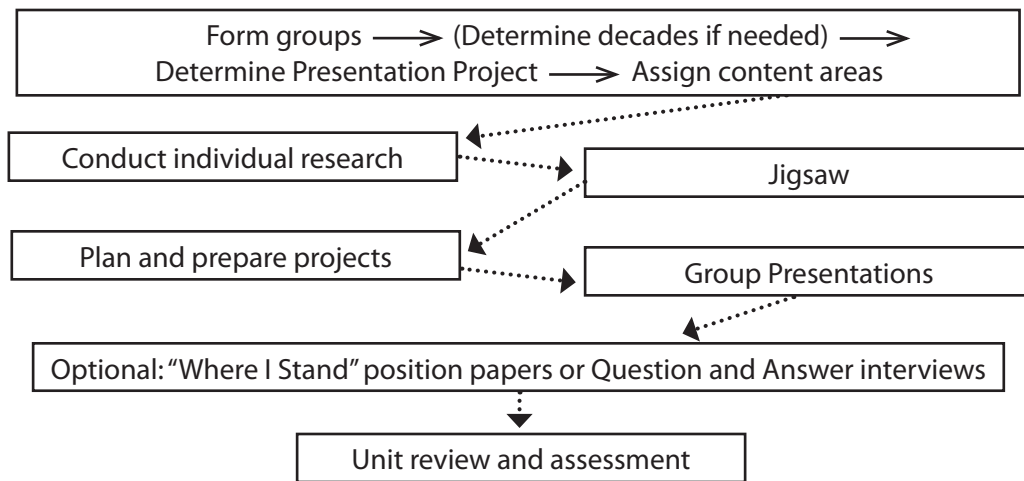
On a serious note, I'm very proud of your mama. She quit smoking! Ever since the paper had me report on the American Cancer Society's study about smoking and lung cancer, she's been fussing about how we both should quit. Well, she's gone and done it! I tell her it's easier for her, since she didn't start until she met me, whereas I'd been smoking since I was just a tadpole! Anyway, now she'll be after me for sure. Maybe I should at that. Has Mike given any thought to quitting?

One more thing before I sign off. What with all the buzz about whether nuclear power is safe, The Defender wants to do a story on the Shippingport Atomic Power Station, near Pittsburgh. I've asked for the assignment, both because I'm interested in the subject and because it would let me work in a visit to you all. I'll let you know what happens. I just might turn up on your doorstep sometime in the next few weeks! Here's hoping!

Love,
Dad

Now that you've been introduced to Emily, George, and the 1950s, you're ready to begin. This section will take you through the project, step by step. Enjoy your exploration of this *Dynamic Decade*!

Here's an overview.



Steps to follow:

1. Form your group, determine the decade(s) you'll study, the project you will present, and when your presentation is due. Write the appropriate information on your *Dynamic Decades* Student Assignment Form. Optional presentation projects include:
 - Write, stage, costume, rehearse, and present an original "American Life in the 1950s" skit
 - Create, explain, read excerpts from, and display a "Decade in Review" newspaper
 - Create, explain, and demonstrate a "Fascinating Facts" quiz game
2. Which content area(s) will you research for your group? Write it or them on your *Dynamic Decades* Student Assignment Form.
 - America and the world
 - Family life, work, and school
 - Science and technology
 - Key social issues
 - Arts, sports, and culture
3. Use resources from the Suggested Resources list or others recommended by your teacher to research your content area(s). Follow the Big6 research process or another process explained by your teacher. Use the Research Worksheet to help you find, record, and organize information. Use your Chronology and Issues sheets to orient you to your decade(s) and as sources for specific events or items to investigate and incorporate in your group's project. NOTE: You will turn in your Research Worksheet and your notes, so keep them neat and readable!
4. Meet in Jigsaw groups with other specialists in your content area. Exchange ideas and take notes on your Research Worksheet or additional paper.
5. Check out new sources or ideas from your content specialist meeting.

6. Report on your content area to your original group.
7. Plan and prepare your presentation project, fine tuning and supplementing your individual research as needed for the project. Be sure to build all the requirements from your Project Guidelines sheet into your project. Be creative, and don't forget to include George's and Emily's viewpoints in your project.
8. Present your group's project to the class.
9. (Prepare and present your "Where I Stand" position paper or Question & Answer interview, if assigned.)
10. Participate in the unit review and turn in your worksheet and notes.

Dynamic Decades: 1950s

America and the World

1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Truman sends forces to aid South Korea	Cold War rages	Eisenhower elected president	Salk introduces polio vaccine	L. Pauling wins his second Nobel Prize	Arms race heats up with new "massive retaliation" nuclear policy	Eisenhower reelected in a landslide	Americans question public school as USSR launches <i>Sputnik</i>	U.S. launches <i>Explorer</i> satellite	Space race in full swing
Puerto Rican nationalists try to kill Truman	U.S. arranges to build air based in England	UN headquarters completed in NYC	First woman breaks sound barrier	U.S. part of SEATO as it forms	Cold War eases	Cold War eases	Beatnik movement hits U.S. with Kerouac novel <i>Beat</i>	U.S. troops move into Jordan, Lebanon	Khrushchev visits U.S.
U.S. fears Communist power in east	First electrical power from atomic energy, IN	U.S. scientists test H-bomb	Korean War ends	First nuclear powered submarine launched		Olympics in Australia		NASA established	U.S. troops move into Jordan, Lebanon
R J Bunche first black American to win Nobel Peace Prize	General MacArthur wants to attack China; Truman fires him	Olympics in Finland		Puerto Rican nationalists shoot five Congressmen		Pop art spreads to U.S.		Jet service to Europe begins	U.S. company develops microchip
Truman sends military advisors to Vietnam	U.S. (and others) sign peace treaty with Japan			Nuclear fallout problem widely debated				Van Cliburn wins International Tchaikovsky Piano Competition	
U.S. loans India \$190 million to buy U.S. grain								<i>USS Nautilus</i> atomic submarine proves no land under Arctic ice cap	

KEY ISSUES

- Post-World War II America increasingly engaged in world affairs
- America joins UN in supporting South Korea against North Korean, Chinese forces
- U.S. fears, resists communism at home and abroad; Cold War rages
- Postwar concerns prompt new defensive alliances (SEATO)
- Development and use of nuclear power debated globally
- Space race drives advances in space exploration
- America increasingly influenced by European art, fashion, social movements

Dynamic Decades: 1950s

Family Life, Work, and School

1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
First Xerox copier made	19.3 million women in work force	First bank credit cards issued, NY	More than 50% of families own TV	Swanson introduces frozen TV dinners	Disneyland opens in CA	First enclosed shopping mall opens in MN	Central High School in Little Rock, AK, forcibly integrated	Hula hoop popular	First Barbie dolls sold
Automatic transmission cars available	First commercial manufacture of computers		IBM introduces "701" computer	Supreme Court outlaws segregation in public schools	First auto seat belt law, IL	<i>American Bandstand</i> hits TV airways	Electric portable typewriters on sale	Domestic and international jet service begins	Ford's Edsel major flop
Clairol introduces home hair dye	First coast-to-coast direct dial phone service		Labor strike leaves NYC without daily newspaper for 11 days		"Rec rooms" for entertaining guests become popular	Labor unions merge to form AFL-CIO	Frozen pizza hits the market	Pizza Hut opens in MO	NASA starts training astronauts
Survey shows children spend as much time watching TV as in school	AT&T first corporation with 1 million stockholders		Sara Lee markets frozen cakes, pies		Time of great prosperity, economic growth		Frisbees big sellers	Congress passes National Defense Education Act to boost math, science, foreign language education	Average family car costs \$1180
U.S. Senate investigates organized crime			Harvard Law School awards first degrees to women		Interstate highway building begins				
					Ray Kroc buys McDonalds, starts fast-food empire				

KEY ISSUES

- Number of women in work force peaks
- Fear of Communism's spread sparks Cold War, McCarthyism rages and is finally defeated
- Widespread prosperity gives many families spare time and spending money; consumer economy emerges
- "Convenience foods" and growth of restaurant industry changes America's eating habits
- Workplaces take advantage of advances in business machines to become more efficient
- Emerging concern in families, schools, about impact of TV on children
- Cross-country communications, travel increasingly part of everyday life
- TV and other media increasingly influence everyday life

Dynamic Decades: 1950s

Science and Technology

1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
First Xerox copier made	First color TV show broadcast	First 3-D movie shown	Salk introduces polio vaccine	Silicon transistor developed	Wave of "flying saucer" sightings	Magnetic video recorder demonstrated	Synthetic amino acids made	U.S. launches <i>Explorer I</i> , <i>Vanguard 1</i> satellites	Space race in full swing
Automatic transmission cars available	First electrical power from atomic energy, IN	U.S. scientists test H-bomb	U.S. surgeon performs first open-heart surgery	Gas-turbine auto exhibited, NY	Velcro invented	Pacemaker invented	Electric portable typewriters on sale	NASA established	First color photo of earth taken from space
"Dead" surgical patient revived by heart massage	First coast-to-coast direct dial phone service	Buckminster Fuller's geodesic home design displayed	First heart-lung machine used	Linus Pauling wins second Nobel Prize	Interstate highway building begins	Kidney dialysis machine developed	Direct link between smoking and cancer proved	Domestic and international jet service begins	U.S. launches its first weather satellite
	Chrysler introduces first power steering car	"Don't Walk" traffic signs first used in NYC		Human tissue bank established, MD			Sony makes first pocket-size transistor radio	Solid-state electronic computer developed	U.S. company develops microchip
	First disposable diaper invented	First artificial heart valve implanted in human		First nuclear powered submarine launched			U.S. scientists develop fiber-optic endoscope for medical use	Bifocal contact lenses introduced	NASA starts training astronauts
	Full-body x-ray machine invented			Nuclear fallout problem widely debated			Oral polio vaccine replaces shots	First stereo records marketed	Pressure test for glaucoma developed
				Bell Labs invents photovoltaic cell			Synthetic penicillin developed	<i>USS Nautilus</i> atomic submarine proves no land under Arctic ice cap	

KEY ISSUES

- The space race is on; public imagination engaged in supporting space exploration
- Dramatic strides in medical treatment of diseases
- Advancing technology serves the entertainment industry with better ways to record and transmit music and video performances
- Nuclear power increasingly harnessed for both military and peaceful purposes, while hotly debated
- Steady progress in development, application of computer technology
- Continuing advances in transportation, engineering

Dynamic Decades: 1950s

Key Social Issues

1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Senator McCarthy labels 205 State Department workers communists	Cold War rages	Eisenhower elected president	Korean War ends	Supreme Court outlaws segregation in public schools	first televised presidential press conference	Eisenhower reelected by landslide	Central High School in Little Rock, AK, forcibly integrated	Alaska becomes 49th state	Hawaii becomes 50th state
Truman sends forces to aid South Korea	Julius and Ethel Rosenberg sentenced to death as communist spies	NC jury convicts black man of assault for "leering" at white woman	Black leader Marcus Garvey imprisoned	Senate holds hearings on McCarthy's accusations, condemns McCarthy	Arms race heats up with new "massive retaliation" nuclear policy	Cold War eases	Americans question public school as U.S.S.R launches Sputnik	NASA established	"Buy American" campaign improves economy
Ralph J. Bunche first black American to win Nobel Peace Prize	Supreme Court bars "subversives" from teaching in public schools	McCarthy investigates rumors of communist infiltration of Army	Harvard University bans discrimination	Nuclear fallout problem widely debated	Racial segregation banned on interstate trains, buses	Labor unions merge to form AFL-CIO	Althea Gibson first black woman to win singles, doubles at Wimbledon	Economic recession	Space race in full swing
McCarran Act supports anti-Communist campaign		Department of Health, Education & Welfare created	Missouri legislator Dyer campaigns for anti-lynching bill	Phrase "under God" inserted into Pledge of Allegiance	Montgomery bus boycott	100+ Congressmen resist court-ordered desegregation	Direct link between smoking and cancer proved		Khrushchev visits U.S.
Truman proclaims national state of emergency		Harvard Law School awards first degrees to women			Dr. M L King leads fight against racism		Congress passes first civil rights bill since Reconstruction		
Military draft age lowered to 18.5							20% of Americans live in poverty		
Survey shows children spend as much time watching TV as in school									

KEY ISSUES

- Racism and sexism major issues, with gains and losses; modern civil rights movement begins
- Development, use of nuclear power hotly debated
- Number of women in work force peaks
- Emerging concern in families, schools about impact of TV on children
- Widespread prosperity gives many families leisure time and spending money; consumer economy emerges
- Fear of communism's spread sparks Cold War, McCarthyism rages and is finally defeated
- Emergence of distinctive "teen culture" drives entertainment industry, causes concern
- Nation grows with addition of Alaska, Hawaii

Dynamic Decades: 1950s

Arts, Sports, and Culture

1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
First National Book Awards given	First TV opera, <i>Anahli</i> and the <i>Night Visitors</i> , telecast	first <i>Mad</i> comic book published	Bermuda shorts popular for men	26 publishers self-regulate comic book content	Disneyland opens in CA	Pop art spreads to U.S.	Beatnik movement hits U.S. with Kerouac novel <i>Beat</i>	Hula hoop popular	First Barbie dolls sold
Minneapolis Lakers win first NBA championships	First daytime soap operas air on CBS	Olympics in Finland	More than half American families own TV	Billy Graham crusades begin	Marian Anderson first black woman to sing at Met Opera House	<i>American Bandstand</i> hits TV airways	Althea Gibson first black woman to win singles, doubles at Wimbledon	TV quiz show scandal	Plane crash kills 3 rock stars in IA
<i>Peanuts</i> comic strip debuts in newspapers	Gene Autry releases "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer"	Buckminster Fuller's geodesic home design displayed	First televised Academy Awards	Bill Haley and The Comets top pop charts	Jeans become fashionable	Olympics in Australia	<i>West Side Story</i> hits Broadway	Elvis Presley joins army	DJs investigated in "pay for play" scandal
NBA holds first All-Star Game	Drive-in movies popular	Rocky Marciano new world heavyweight champ	Marilyn Monroe Hollywood's reigning sex symbol	Marlon Brando becomes star, youth idol	"Rock Around the Clock" best selling record	<i>My Fair Lady</i> a hit on Broadway	Science fiction space movies popular	Van Cliburn wins International Tchaikovsky Piano Competition	Ben Hur sweeps Academy Awards
	Salinger's <i>Catcher in the Rye</i> published	"I Love Lucy" makes TV debut	New York Yankees win 50th World Series	Disney's <i>Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea</i> opens	Poodle skirts popular with girls	Magnetic video recorder demonstrated	Sony makes first pocket-size transistor radio	Beehive hairstyle the rage	Guggenheim Museum opens in NYC
	Jackson Pollock's paintings cause stir at Museum of Modern Art, NYC	Gary Cooper wins Oscar for <i>High Noon</i>	Miller's <i>The Crucible</i> draws attention to McCarthy "witch hunt"	<i>Sports Illustrated</i> debuts	<i>Mickey Mouse Club</i> Show debuts on TV	First Go-Karts built	Frisbees big sellers	First stereo records marketed	Motown Records Company founded
		<i>Dragnet</i> debuts on TV	<i>Playboy</i> magazine debuts	Enclosed shopping malls start popping up around country	James Dean enthalls teens in <i>Rebel Without a Cause</i>	<i>Heartbreak Hotel</i> makes Elvis Presley a movie star	Seuss' <i>The Cat in the Hat</i> published	Bobby Fischer becomes youngest International Chess Grand Master	
		<i>Today Show</i> debuts on NBC			<i>Blackboard Jungle</i> highlights NYC gang violence		Pat Boone's clean-cut image rivals Elvis' dangerous image	Leonard Bernstein begins to conduct New York Philharmonic	

KEY ISSUES

- Arts increasingly used to comment on politics, social issues
- Film studios suffer from competition with television
- Dawn of space exploration, "space race" trigger fascination with science fiction stories
- Rock & roll explodes as "teen culture" develops, age of "rock stars" begins
- Diversity and influence of media grows
- Racial barriers in sports continue to fall
- America increasingly influenced by European art, fashion, social movements

Suggested Resources

Print

The 1950s by Stuart A. Kallen (A Cultural History of the United States through the Decades series). Lucent Books, 1999. ISBN 1560065559.

The 1950s by Margaret Sharman (Take Ten Years series). Evans Brothers, Limited, 1996. ISBN 0237516640.

The 1950s: From the Korean War to Elvis by Stephen Feinstein (Decades of the 20th Century series). Enslow, 2006. ISBN 0766026353.

All the People 1945–2001 (A History of Us series, Volume 10) by Joy Hakim. Oxford University Press, 2002. ISBN 0195153383.

America in the 1950s by Charles A. Wills (Decades of American History series). Chelsea House, 2005. ISBN 0816056404.

Bowling, Beatniks, and Bell-Bottoms: Pop Culture of 20th Century America edited by Sara Pendergast and Tom Pendergast. Thomson Gale, 2002 (Volume 3). ISBN 078765678X.

The Century for Young People by Peter Jennings, Todd Brewster, and Jennifer Armstrong. Doubleday Books for Young Readers, 1999. ISBN 0385327080.

The Changing Face of American Society 1945–2000 by Christopher Collier and James Lincoln Collier (The Drama of American History series). Benchmark Books, 2002. ISBN 0761413197.

Fashions of a Decade: The 1950s by Patricia Baker. Chelsea House Publications, 2006. (Fashions of a Decade series). ISBN 081606721X.

Joseph McCarthy and the Cold War by Victoria Sherrow. Blackbirch Preess, 1999.

The Middle Road: American Politics 1945–2000 by Christopher Collier and James Lincoln Collier (The Drama of American History series). Benchmark Books, 2002. ISBN 0761413189.

Oxford Children's Book of the 20th Century: A Concise Guide to a Century of Contrast and Change by Stewart Ross. Oxford University Press, 1999. ISBN 0195214889.

UXL American Decades—1950–1959 edited by Tom Pendergast and Sara Pendergast. UXL, 2002. ISBN 078766460X.

Nonprint

Casey Kasem: America's Top 10 Through the Years—1950s by various artists. Top Sail Productions, 2001 (Music CD). ASIN B00005B52O. This CD presents 20 top rock & roll hits of the decade performed by the original artists.

Web Sites

- *American Cultural History: 1950–1959*, <http://kclibrary.nhmccd.edu/decade50.html>.
- *AmericanPresident.org*, <http://www.americanpresident.org/history>. Check out the biographies of Presidents Truman and Eisenhower.
- *Archer Audio Archives: The 1950s: 1950–1959*, <http://archer2000.tripod.com/1950.html>. An excellent brief chronology of the decade with audio clips from radio and recordings of the period.
- *AT&T Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Museum*, <http://www.rockhall.com/home/default.asp>.
- *A Biography of America: The Fifties*, <http://www.learner.org/biographyofamerica/prog23>. Easy to navigate information, timeline and photos.
- *Digital History*, <http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/modules>. Take a look at the module on Postwar America.
- *Fast Attacks & Boomers: Submarines in the Cold War*, americanhistory.si.edu/subs/index.html.
- *Greatest Space Events of the 20th Century: The 50s*, http://www.space.com/news/spacehistory/greatest_space_events_1950s-1.html.
- *Twentieth Century Inventions 1900–1999*, <http://inventors.about.com/library/weekly/aa122299a.htm>. Year by year highlights with links to further information.

Supplemental Resources

Fiction

The 1950s: Music by Dorothy and Tom Hoobler. The Millbrook Press, 2001. ISBN 0761316051. In this decade title of the ongoing story of the Aldrich family and their friends, teens from the Dixon and Aldrich families form a racially integrated rock band and face obstacles to public acceptance.

Breaking Through by Francisco Jiménez. Houghton Mifflin, 2001. ISBN 0618011730. In this sequel to *The Circuit*, Jiménez continues the fictionalized story of his life as a Mexican in America, first as an illegal alien and later with legal status. A teen in the 1950s, he and his family struggle with poverty, prejudice, and dreams of a better life.

Catch a Tiger by the Toe by Ellen Levine. Viking Juvenile, 2005. ISBN 0670884618. Thirteen-year-old Jamie finds herself caught between the simple, normal life she craves and her communist-leaning parents' victimization by McCarthy's House Un-American Activities Committee.

Dancing with Elvis by Lynda Stephenson. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2006. ISBN 0802853005. When Frankilee Baxter's family takes in a girl needing refuge from an abusive situation, they get more than they bargained for. This ambitious novel tackles family dynamics, teen competition and angst, and the racial tensions of integration in rural west Texas in the 1950s.

Devil on My Heels by Joyce McDonald. Laurel Leaf, 2005. ISBN 0440238293. Privileged, 15-year-old Dove gets caught in the middle of racial tensions between her father's white orange grower colleagues and black migrant workers who pick the fruit. Racist fears, KKK violence, forbidden interracial romance, and period detail make this a compelling read.

A Higher Geometry by Sharelle Byars Moranville. Henry Holt, 2006. ISBN 0805074708. It's 1959, and Anna's talent for math is out of step with cultural expectations for young women. Moranville deals sensitively with the tension between Anna's dreams, her romance with high school basketball star Mike, and social standards of the day.

How Far Would You Have Gotten If I Hadn't Called You Back? by Valerie Hobbs. Scholastic, 2003. ISBN 0439583969. When studious, musically talented Bronwyn moves with her family to Ojala, California in the late 1950s, she reinvents herself in order to fit in with her popular, partying, drag racing peers.

The Loud Silence of Francine Green by Karen Cushman. Clarion Books 2006. ISBN 0618504559. Francine's peaceful, orderly life as a docile teen in her early-50s family and strict Catholic school is turned upside down when outspoken new student Sophie brings social activism and McCarthy-era tyranny to center stage. The authentic 1950s setting spotlights issues that are still timely today.

Music from a Place Called Half Moon by Jerrie Oughton. Houghton Mifflin, 1995. ISBN 0395707374. When smoldering prejudice between whites and Native Americans flares up in Edie Jo's small North Carolina town in 1956, and her father takes a stand for integration, Edie Jo ponders her position.

My Louisiana Sky by Kimberly Willis Holt. Yearling, 2000. ISBN 0440415705. Set in Louisiana in the late 1950s, this novel explores small town life and the dilemma of a young girl who faces ostracism because of her mentally slow parents, and must choose between caring for them and a seemingly glamorous life in the city.

New Boy by Julian Houston. Houghton Mifflin, 2005. ISBN 0618432531. Rob Garret takes seriously his privileged role as the first black student at a prestigious Connecticut boarding school. Houston deftly depicts Rob's struggle to balance his responsibility to school with his growing awareness of troubling social attitudes around him and his desire to stand up for civil rights.

One Fat Summer by Robert Lipsyte. HarperTrophy, 2004. ISBN 0064470733. In the summer of 1955, Bobby takes a job to distract him from his weight problems, his dysfunctional family, encounters with bullies, and racial prejudice and, in the process, learns to stand up for himself.

Perfect Family by Jerrie Oughton. Houghton Mifflin, 2000. ISBN 0395986680. Oughton brings her honest, sensitive voice to the dilemma of Welcome O'Neal, a young woman dealing with the crisis of a teen pregnancy in a small mid-50s Southern town.

The Red Rose Box by Brenda Woods. Putnam, 2002. ISBN 039923702X. Ten-year-old Leah knows only poverty and racism until her wealthy Aunt Olivia mends a long-standing rift with her mother and they visit her in California. Aunt Olivia's world seems perfect. But when Leah is orphaned she realizes she'd trade her new life of freedom and privilege to have her parents back. Coretta Scott King Honor Book.

Rosie's Tiger by Anna Myers. Walker and Company, 1994. ISBN 0802783058. Rosie is thrilled that her big brother is coming home safe from the Korean War until she learns that he will bring with him a Korean wife and son.

Safe Harbors by Renée Roth-Hano. Four Winds Press, 1993. ISBN 0027777952. This autobiographical novel in diary format is a sequel to *Touch Wood*, and follows the author from France to New York City in 1951, where she is an au pair for a wealthy Jewish family. A nonreligious Jew, Renée struggles with issues of belief, her war-torn past, family dynamics, and cultural adjustment.

The Search for Belle Prater by Ruth White. Farrar Straus Giroux, 2005. In this sequel to the Newbery Award-winning *Belle Prater's Boy*, Woodrow goes in search of his long-lost mother in the company of his cousin Gypsy, his psychic classmate Cassie, and a black boy named Joseph, with surprising, heartwarming results.

This is Next Year by Philip Goldberg. Backinprint.com, 2000. ISBN 0595089232. Roger is 11 in the summer of 1955, when all of Brooklyn is obsessed with the Dodgers' pennant race, and he, like every self-respecting Brooklyn boy, dreams of joining the team. The book is rich with period detail and evocative language.

Walking Mary by James VanOosting. Harper Collins, 2005. ISBN 0060284714. Pearl, tormented by a shameful family secret, is drawn to an eccentric old black woman whose silence is as mysterious as her daily walks to meet every train that stops in their small Illinois town. The dark, haunting story will give mature readers much to think about.

The Willoughby Spit Wonder by Jonathon Scott Fuqua. Candlewick Press, 2004. ISBN 0763617768. Set in Virginia at the height of the Cold War, this novel traces Carter Johnston's efforts to inspire his dying father not to give up by attempting a feat of daring worthy of his comic book superstar heroes.

Nonfiction

The 50s by Dan Epstein(20th Century Pop Culture series). Chelsea House, 2000. ISBN 0791060853.

The Cold War: Primary Sources by Stuart A. Kallen. Lucent Books, 2003. ISBN 159018243X.

The First Space Race: Launching the World's First Satellites by Matt Bille and Erika Lishock. Texas A&M University Press, 2004. ISBN 1585443743.

The History of Rock & Roll by David Shirley. Franklin Watts, 1997. ISBN 0531158462.

Life: Our Century in Pictures for Young People, edited by Richard B. Stolley. Little, Brown and Company, 2000. ISBN 0316815896.

McCarthy and the Fear of Communism in American History by Karen Zeinert. Enslow Publishers, Inc., 1998. ISBN 0894909878.

Our American Century: Events that Shaped the Century by the editors of Time-Life Books. Time-Life, 1998. ISBN 0783555024.

The Way Things Never Were: The Truth about the "Good Old Days" by Norman H. Finkelstein. Backin-print.com, 2005. ISBN 0595348084.

Visual Timeline of the 20th Century by Simon Adams. Dorling Kindersley, 1996. ISBN 0789409976.

Nonprint

Eyes on the Prize Episode 1: Awakenings: 1954–1956. PBS Home Video, 1999 (VHS videocassette). ASIN 6303674992.

Space Race Films Collection. Quality Information Publishers, Inc. (DVD video). ASIN: B000J32THU. Cold War U.S. and Soviet history, newsreels, propaganda, and footage from the John F. Kennedy Space Center.

Web Sites

- *American Architecture—Twentieth Century—1950–1959*, http://www.greatbuildings.com/types/usa/usa_1950-1959.html.
- *The Authentic History Center: Primary Sources from American Popular Culture, 1946–1950s*, <http://www.authentichistory.com/1950s.html>. This interesting site tells stories of the period through audio clips and images from pop culture.
- *The Fifties: Public Opinion & Cartoons*, <http://www.lib.washington.edu/subject/History/bi/hst388-absher/po.html>.
- *Film History of the 1950s*, <http://www.filmsite.org/50sintro.html>.
- *Media History Timeline: The 1950s*, <http://www.mediahistory.umn.edu/time/1950s.html>. Very detailed chronology of noteworthy events.
- *A Science Odyssey: Then + Now*, <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/as/thenandnow>. A chronology with a focus on advances in science and technology.
- *Southern Music Network*, <http://www.southernmusic.net/1950.htm>. An interesting overview the decade's music.

The 1960s

- Student Guide
- Suggested Resources
- Events and Issues Timeline: America and the World
- Events and Issues Timeline: Family Life, Work, and School
- Events and Issues Timeline: Science and Technology
- Events and Issues Timeline: Key Social Issues
- Events and Issues Timeline: Arts, Sports, and Culture
- Supplemental Resources

Dynamic Decades: America in the 1960s

Student Guide

Dear Student,

Meet Emily Granger and George Reynolds. These fictional characters, whose lives exactly spanned the 20th century, will accompany you as you explore life in America in the 1960s. Emily is a woman of European ancestry, who grew up in a rural Alabama town. George is African American, and lived his life in the Chicago area. Born in 1900, both are in their sixties during the 1960s. Through letters, which you find later in this Student Guide, they will share bits of their stories and offer personal perspectives on events and issues of the period. As you study the 1960s, keep in mind how Emily and George might have felt about or been involved in the events and issues you encounter. Try to see things through their eyes, so that in your unit project you can reflect their experiences and perspectives.

In this unit, you will be part of a group, researching a particular aspect of the 1960s, sharing your findings with your group, and working cooperatively to plan and present a project that demonstrates in a creative way what you've learned. You may be asked to form, and defend, a personal position on a key event or issue of the decade. And what a decade it was!

The 1960s

The 1960s was one of the most turbulent periods in American history. It has been described as "the decade that changed America," "the decade of global revolution," and "the decade of tragedies and triumphs."

What comes to mind when you think of the 60s? The Vietnam War? Flower power? The civil rights movement? Women's liberation? The assassinations of President John F. Kennedy, Senator Robert Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Malcolm X? The Cold War? The space race? These highlights rightly suggest a decade packed with tensions, conflicts, dissatisfaction, idealism, violence, heroism, and a dizzying amount of social change. In this decade, the term "mass media" was first used, and the growing power of that phenomenon, especially television news and documentary programming, played a major role in shaping what Americans knew about events in the USA and the world, and how they felt about them. Popular culture reflected both the intense emotions of the period and the need for lighthearted relief from that intensity. While Bob Dylan sang of labor abuses and changing times, "Laugh-In" filled the airwaves with miniskirted go-go dancers and frivolous, if sometimes pointed, humor.

During this unit, take the opportunity to talk to your grandparents or other adults who remember the time well. Their memories might shed interesting, surprising light on the period. Now let's see what our two fictional characters have to say about life in the 1960s.



Emily Granger

Emily Maude (Grantham) Granger, born January 1, 1900; died December 31, 1999. Emily's grandparents came to America from Germany in the 1880s. Her father was a U.S. Army Lieutenant and her mother a homemaker; Emily was the youngest of five children. Her family lived in the small coal mining town of Blocton, Alabama. Emily's father died in France in 1918, fighting for the Allies in World War I. Emily graduated from the local high school and married her high school sweetheart, Joseph Granger, in 1919. The Grangers had four daughters. Emily was a homemaker until her husband died in 1942 while serving as a soldier in World War II. She went to work at a factory in Birmingham to support the war effort. Emily lost her job when the soldiers returned after the War. She lived out her life in Birmingham with her oldest daughter, enjoying a large family of children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren.

George Reynolds

George Abraham Reynolds, born January 1, 1900; died December 31, 1999. George was African American, the son of a Pullman porter and a seamstress; the grandson of slaves. He had an older brother and a younger sister. George was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. He graduated from the University of Chicago in 1922, and pursued a career as a newspaper reporter for a publication written for African Americans. George married Francine Norris in 1926. He and his wife had a son and two daughters. He retired in 1972; his wife died in 1978.



September 8, 1968

Dear Libby,

Were you watching TV last night? Did you see all those women protesting the Miss America pageant? I honestly did not know what to think. It seems right that women should be able to work at more jobs, and even to be paid the same as men. But I never thought of dressing nicely and using make-up as degrading, like that woman said on the news. Why pick on those lovely young women who worked hard to earn the honor of being Miss America? And you'd think they'd be ashamed, waving around their undergarments and throwing them in the trash on national television! I was surely embarrassed to watch them. I just don't know.

Speaking of women and jobs, Evelyn is working long hours at the restaurant. Most days she's gone from before the kids come home from school until after they're in bed. Gerald tries to help them with their homework, but he's not much good in the kitchen or minding the younger ones. He works hard and is a good father, but I don't know what Evelyn would do without me here! I guess I'm just glad to feel needed and to have time with my grandchildren.

And speaking of grandchildren, we just found out that your namesake, Beth, is pregnant with my first great-grandchild! And no husband in sight! Evelyn and Gerald are beside themselves and I'm none too pleased, either. "The sexual revolution," they call it, but it looks to me like nothing more than an invitation to immorality. How will she raise a child, when she's still practically a child herself, and what will she tell that precious baby when it's old enough to ask questions?

We worry every day about Gerald Junior, too. We get letters from someplace called Quang Ngai, but he doesn't say much about the fighting. We hear more about that—too much, if you ask me!—on the news than we do from him. All those pictures from Vietnam of wounded and dead soldiers break my heart! Do we need to see that? It was bad enough to lose so many—our dear father and my Joseph among them—in earlier wars. But to have to see it with our own eyes, in our own living rooms, every night? Who does that help? It just makes us worry more. I'm glad Evelyn and Gerald haven't gotten a color TV yet! I think that would only make it worse. I know every generation has its wars. But after losing two men to war already,

it doesn't seem fair that we could lose Gerald Junior, too. He's a good boy, but then I imagine most of them are. I'm certainly living in a "house divided." Gerald keeps saying that we have to fight Communism, and we should be proud to have Gerald Junior doing his patriotic duty and not running off to Canada like some young cowards. Then Beth argues (disrespectfully, it seems to me, but I try to stay out of it!) that her brother shouldn't have to die in a war we don't belong in at all! She's been going to war protests, and is starting to talk and dress like those hippies you see in the magazines. What next?

I still haven't decided whether to vote for Nixon or Humphrey in November. Have you?

Time to go. Evelyn just called me to join them for dessert. Probably a new Cool Whip recipe—Evelyn is crazy about it! Personally, I prefer good old whipped cream. I hope you and Ed are well. I'll tuck in the kids' new school pictures.

*Love to you and yours,
Emily*

September 4, 1963

Dear Reg,

It was great to share the March with you last week! I haven't settled down yet—I think it was the most exciting time of my life, though you won't catch me saying that in front of Francine! She still worries about my being so involved in the movement. But I wouldn't have missed it for the world! All those people together in the nation's capitol, speaking out for what's right, and hearing Dr. King talk about his dream for America. . . I never will forget it. And with Kennedy in the White House, it seems like things have never looked brighter. I hope we see some real changes now. How could we not, with the whole country watching on TV? I was proud to be a black man that day, I'll tell you. My daughter Racine wants me to visit her in Atlanta and tell her family all about it. She worries about her boy. Some of his young friends are talking schoolboy nonsense about how we should grab what's ours from "The Man," and she wants him to hear about the power of nonviolent resistance. Guess I'll make that trip as soon as I can.

I'm glad your new job is going well. You deserve it. But I miss our staff room lunches and talking things over with someone of similar mind. Still, at just 5 cents a stamp, I guess we can afford to keep up our conversations by mail. Speaking of money, the editors at the Chicago Daily Defender are talking about raising the price of the paper to 20 cents! That's nearly as much as the New York Times! I'm afraid that if we get too big for our britches, we'll lose readers. After all, it's not like we're the only newspaper in Chicago!

Francine tries to talk me into retiring, and some days it's tempting. For all that this newspaper tries to be honest and fair, some of the people here are none too enlightened! I know you know what—and who!—I mean. I'm still getting angry looks from a couple of people who don't think the boss should have let me cover the March on company time and money—guess they think I'm too old to do the job, at least the way THEY want it done! Grumbling about special treatment, favoritism, that sort of thing. Favoritism! Can you imagine? I was paying my dues while they were still young squirts in knee pants! I'd like to see a little favoritism, I'll tell you!

It's good to see the schools in the South are finally opening up, though I don't envy

those young people at the University of Alabama the price they'll pay for being the first black students there. Did you hear about the young man at the University of Mississippi who's going for a Bachelor's degree? Now there's a hero, in my book.

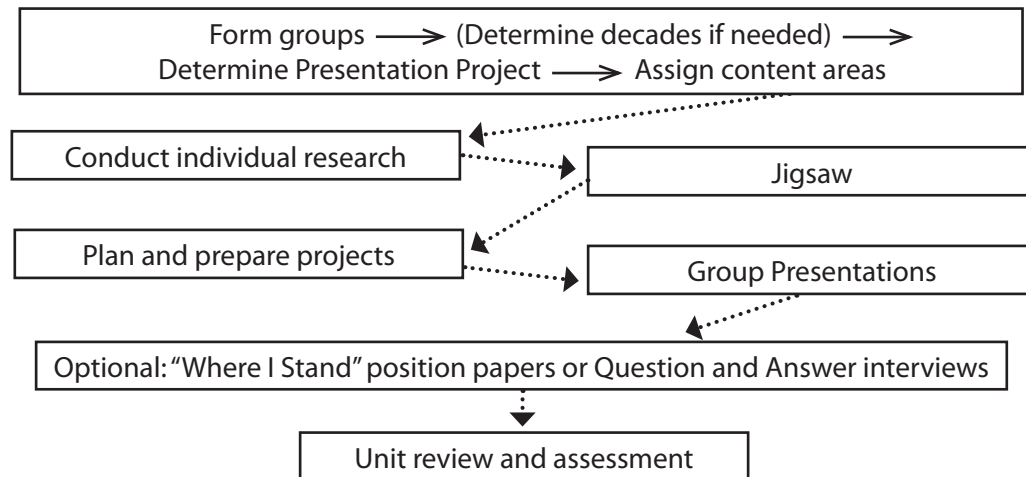
Enough of that! What's the boxing scene like in Cincinnati? I wish Liston would fight again at Comiskey Park. I don't know why he's not following up his big win over Patterson with more fights. Whatever you think about the guy, he can really HIT! We'll think of you next time we go hear Oscar Brown, Jr. at one of the jazz clubs. Francine and I can still cut a rug, though we don't last as long on the dance floor as we used to!

I look forward to your next letter.

*Your true-blue friend,
George*

Now that you've been introduced to Emily, George, and the 1960s, you're ready to begin. This section will take you through the project, step by step. Enjoy your exploration of this *Dynamic Decade*!

Here's an overview.



Steps to follow:

1. Form your group, determine the decade(s) you'll study, the project you will present, and when your presentation is due. Write the appropriate information on your *Dynamic Decades* Student Assignment Form. Optional presentation projects include:
 - Write, stage, costume, rehearse, and present an original "American Life in the 1960s" skit
 - Create, explain, read excerpts from, and display a "Decade in Review" newspaper
 - Create, explain, and demonstrate a "Fascinating Facts" quiz game
2. Which content area(s) will you research for your group? Write it or them on your *Dynamic Decades* Student Assignment Form.
 - America and the world
 - Family life, work, and school
 - Science and technology
 - Key social issues
 - Arts, sports, and culture
3. Use resources from the Suggested Resources list or others recommended by your teacher to research your content area(s). Follow the Big6 research process or another process explained by your teacher. Use the Research Worksheet to help you find, record, and organize information. Use your Chronology and Issues sheets to orient you to your decade(s) and as sources for specific events or items to investigate and incorporate in your group's project. NOTE: You will turn in your Research Worksheet and your notes, so keep them neat and readable!
4. Meet in Jigsaw groups with other specialists in your content area. Exchange ideas and take notes on your Research Worksheet or additional paper.
5. Check out new sources or ideas from your content specialist meeting.

6. Report on your content area to your original group.
7. Plan and prepare your presentation project, fine tuning and supplementing your individual research as needed for the project. Be sure to build all the requirements from your Project Guidelines sheet into your project. Be creative, and don't forget to include George's and Emily's viewpoints in your project.
8. Present your group's project to the class.
9. (Prepare and present your "Where I Stand" position paper or Question & Answer interview, if assigned.)
10. Participate in the unit review and turn in your worksheet and notes.

Dynamic Decades: 1960s

America and the World

1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
First nationally televised presidential debates (JFK/Nixon)	Russian cosmonaut first human in space	Telstar satellite enables transcontinental TV	Audio-cassette invented in Netherlands	Gulf of Tonkin resolution authorizes Vietnam War	Capital punishment ended in UK	Cultural Revolution in China	U.S. scientists first warn of "greenhouse effect"	Tet offensive in Vietnam	U.S. astronauts walk on moon
NASA invents weather satellite	Berlin Wall erected	Cuban missile crisis	USSR sends first woman into space	Khrushchev removed from power in U.S.S.R	First large-scale troops to Vietnam	World food crisis	War breaks out in Nigeria	USSR invades Czechoslovakia	Pentagon scientists build first "Internet"
Laser invented in U.S.	Amnesty International founded	Telephone hotline links White House, Kremlin	Nuclear Test Ban Treaty between USSR, UK, U.S.	South African civil rights leader Mandela imprisoned	Mariner 4 sends photos from Mars	Indira Gandhi elected to lead India	Six Day War between Israel, Arabs	French students lead anti-government demonstration	Video cassette invented in Japan
First woman head of state elected in Ceylon (Sri Lanka)	Ballet star Nureyev defects from USSR to U.S.		President Kennedy assassinated	Bullet Train, first high-speed rail begins service in Japan	U.S. astronaut Ed White takes first space walk		Space De-militarization Treaty, U.S. & USSR	Vietnam War losing support	Catholic-Protestant violence erupts in Northern Ireland
Kennedy elected President	OPEC founded			PLO founded	U.S. military draft doubled		ASEAN formed	Aswan Dam completed	Jumbo Jet invented in U.S.
Rome Olympics	Peace Corps established			Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wins Nobel Peace Prize	U.S. Immigration Act ends national quotas		First heart transplant surgery	Nixon elected President	World learns of My Lai Massacre
U.S. spy plane shot down over USSR				Tokyo Olympics				Mexico Olympics	First flight of Concorde
				Johnson elected President					

KEY ISSUES

- Global activism for civil rights, human rights
- Space exploration and the "space race"
- Communism vs. capitalism and the Cold War
- Advancing communications and transportation technology "shrink" the world
- Tension over nuclear weapons
- Growing concern over damage to earth's environment
- Kennedy and the Peace Corps

Dynamic Decades: 1960s

Family Life, Work, and School

1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
First televised presidential debates Kennedy/Nixon	Birth control pill generally available	Telstar satellite enables transcontinental TV	Friedan's <i>Feminine Mystique</i> launches Feminist Movement	President Johnson declares War on Poverty	U.S. Immigration Act ends national quotas	U.S. Surgeon General's report reveals dangers of smoking	Gatorade introduced	Kids play with new toy "Spirograph"	Pringles hit market
<i>Flintstones</i> and <i>Andy Griffith Show</i> on TV	Americans urged to build backyard fallout shelters	U.S. Supreme Court outlaws school prayer	March for Jobs & Freedom on Washington D.C.	Pop-tarts introduced	Medicare begins	Nader's campaign prompts strict auto safety standards	<i>Laugh-in</i> debuts on TV	Median household income is \$7,743	<i>Sesame Street</i> premieres
		First diet drink introduced	U.S. law mandates equal pay for equal work		IBM develops word processor	Chavez earns first labor contract for migrant workers		Life expectancy is 70.2 years	
			Racist church bombings in Alabama		Cool Whip introduced				

KEY ISSUES

- Feminism in the home, workplace, and universities
- Civil rights movement creates tension on all fronts
- Universities become hotbeds of political dissent
- Television alters access to information, brings the world into our living rooms
- Forced integration of schools
- Conflicting views of war and lifestyle divide families, generations
- Birth control pill and resulting sexual revolution challenges traditional family values
- Fear of nuclear war pervades homes, schools, workplaces

Dynamic Decades: 1960s

Science and Technology

1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
NASA invents first weather satellite	Birth control pill generally available	Telstar satellite enables transcontinental TV	Audio-cassette invented in Netherlands	Bullet Train, high-speed rail begins service in Japan	Nader's <i>Unsafe at Any Speed</i> prompts study of auto safety	Surgeon General's report reveals dangers of smoking	Congress passes Air Quality Act	Aswan dam completed	Armstrong, Aldrich walk on moon
Laser invented in U.S.	Russian cosmonaut first human in space	Telephone hotline links White House, Kremlin	Carson's <i>Silent Spring</i> launches environmental movement		Mariner 4 sends photos from Mars	Wave of UFO sightings in U.S.	U.S. scientists first warn of "greenhouse effect"		Pentagon scientists build first "Internet"
					IBM develops word processor		First heart transplant surgery		Jumbo Jet invented
					Astronaut Ed White takes first space walk		Launch pad fire kills 3 U.S. astronauts		Videocassette invented in Japan

KEY ISSUES

- Advancing communications and transportation technology "shrink" the world and revolutionize entertainment industry
- Space exploration and the "space race"
- Tension over nuclear weapons
- Growing concern over damage to earth's environment
- Birth control pill sets off sexual revolution

Dynamic Decades: 1960s

Key Social Issues

Events and Issues Timeline

Master

1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Greensboro 4 lunch counter sit-ins	Freedom Riders force interstate travel integration	Supreme Court integrates interstate transportation	Friedan's <i>Feminine Mystique</i> launches feminist movement	Gulf of Tonkin resolution authorizes Vietnam War	Malcolm X assassinated	Miranda rights become law	Race riots in U.S. cities	Chicago police attack protesters at Democratic National Convention	Largest antiwar demonstration in U.S. history in Washington D.C.
U.S. spy plane shot down over USSR	Birth control pill launches sexual revolution	Supreme Court outlaws school prayer	March for Jobs & Freedom on Washington D.C.	"Freedom Summer" voter registration campaign	Congress passes Voting Rights Act	NOW founded	Antiwar march on Pentagon	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. assassinated	Stonewall riots launch gay liberation movement
	Amnesty International founded	Students for a Democratic Society begins in Michigan	Nuclear Test Ban Treaty between USSR, UK, U.S.	Congress passes Civil Rights Act	Race riots in Los Angeles, CA	Black Panthers founded	Marshall appointed as first black on US Supreme Court	Robert Kennedy assassinated	World learns of My Lai Massacre
	Women Strike for Peace movement		Congress mandates equal pay for equal work	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wins Nobel Peace Prize	Miniskirts create controversy	10,000 antiwar demonstrators picket White House	Summer of Love hippie celebration	Vietnam War becomes longest-running war in U.S. history	Shock over Charles Manson cult murders
	Peace Corps founded		Baldwin's <i>The Fire Next Time</i> warns of racial violence		U.S. military draft doubled	Calls for investigation of JFK's death to be reopened		Vietnam War losing support	
			Racist church bombings in Alabama		Nader takes on auto industry for unsafe cars	Chavez earns first labor contract for migrant workers		Shirley Chisholm is the first black woman elected to Congress	
			Carson's <i>Silent Spring</i> launches environmental movement		Civil rights march on Montgomery, AL			Astronaut deaths boost controversy over space program	
			University of Alabama forcibly desegregated						

KEY ISSUES

- Civil rights movement
- Women's liberation movement
- Controversy over Vietnam War/antiwar movement
- Generational tension and the hippie movement
- Space exploration and the "space race"
- Communism vs. capitalism and the Cold War
- Growing media shapes public knowledge, perception of issues
- Tension over nuclear weapons
- Growing concern over damage to earth's environment
- Kennedy and the Peace Corps
- Johnson and the "Great Society"

Dynamic Decades: 1960s

Arts, Sports, and Culture

1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Movie <i>Psycho</i> hits theaters	Ballet star Nureyev defects from USSR to U.S.	First diet drink introduced	Audiocassette revolutionizes way we listen to music	Beatles tour U.S.	Lava lamps introduced	Star Trek premieres on TV	Gatorade introduced	Hit singles "Hey Jude," "Heard it through the Grapevine," "People Got to Be Free"	First Super Bowl game
Chubby Checker starts "Twist" dance craze	Bob Dylan's first public performance	First James Bond movie hits U.S. theaters	Troll dolls popular	Pop-tarts introduced	Skateboards catch on	<i>The Monkees</i> TV series popular	British model Twiggy a smash in U.S.		Woodstock festival
<i>Flintstones</i> and <i>Andy Griffith Show</i> on TV	Andy Warhol launches "pop art"	Marilyn Monroe dies	Beach Boys hit "Surfin' USA"	Cassius Clay (Muhammad Ali) is World Heavyweight Boxing Champ	Cool Whip introduced	"Twister" game makes it big	<i>Hair</i> debuts off-Broadway	Black American athletes give "black power" salute on victor's podium at Mexico Olympics	Pringles introduced
	<i>West Side Story</i> wins Best Picture Oscar	Wilt Chamberlain scores 100 points for Philadelphia Warriors		GI Joe doll introduced	<i>Sound of Music</i> most popular movie		Summer of Love hippie celebration		Silver moon boots popular
	Peace Corps founded			False eye-lashes hit market	first Rolling Stones #1 hit in U.S.		<i>Laugh-in</i> debuts on TV		
	Maris breaks Babe Ruth's home run record				Miniskirts are the rage				

KEY ISSUES

- Racism, sexism in sports
- Advancing communications technology revolutionizes entertainment industry
- Arts and culture reflect both the intensity of the decade and light-hearted escapism
- The "British Invasion" in music, films, fashions, etc.

Suggested Resources

Print

The 1960s by Jessica A. Gresko (American History by Decade series). Thompson Gale, 2003. ISBN 0737717483.

The 1960s by Tim Healey and Richard Tames (Picture History of the 20th Century series). Sea to Sea Publications, 2005. ISBN 1932889744.

The 1960s by Ken Hills (Take Ten Years series). Evans Brothers, Limited, 1996. ISBN 0237516659.

The 1960s: From the Vietnam War to Flower Power by Stephen Feinstein (Decades of the 20th Century series). Enslow, 2006. ISBN 0766026361.

The '60s by Dan Epstein (20th Century Pop Culture series). Chelsea House, 2000. ISBN 0791060861.

Bowling, Beatniks, and Bell-Bottoms: Pop Culture of 20th Century America edited by Sara Pendergast and Tom Pendergast. Thomson Gale, 2002 (Volume 4). ISBN 0787656755.

The Century for Young People by Peter Jennings, Todd Brewster, and Jennifer Armstrong. Doubleday Books for Young Readers, 1999. ISBN 0385327080.

A Dream of Freedom: The Civil Rights Movement from 1954 to 1968 by Diane McWhorter. Scholastic Nonfiction, 2004. ISBN 0439576784.

Fashions of a Decade—the 1960s by Yvonne Connikie. Facts on File, 1990.

A History of Us, Volumes 8-10 by Joy Hakim. Oxford University Press, 2002. ISBN 019516055X (set).

Life in America During the 1960s by Stuart A Kallen (Way People Live series). Thomson Gale, 2001. ISBN 156006790X.

Oxford Children's Book of the 20th Century: A Concise Guide to a Century of Contrast and Change by Stewart Ross. Oxford University Press, 1999. ISBN 0195214889.

The Sixties by R. G. Grant (Look at Life In series). Raintree, 2000. ISBN 0739813390.

The Sixties: Arts and Entertainment by Stuart A. Kallen (Lucent Library of Historical Eras). Thomson Gale, 2004. ISBN 1590183886.

UXL American Decades—1960–1969 by Tom & Sara Pendergast & Rob Nagel. UXL, 2002. ISBN 0787664618.

Nonprint

Eyes on the Prize featuring Julian Bond, James Bevel, et al. PBS Home Video, 1986 (VHS videocassettes). ASIN: 6303674992.

The Sixties Groovy Hits by varied artists. Deuce Boxed Sets, 2002 (Music CDs). UPC 777966962726.

Web Sites

- *American Cultural History: 1960–1969*, <http://kclibrary.nhmccd.edu/decade60.html>.
- *American Heroes of the Twentieth Century*, <http://library.thinkquest.org/J002003/index1.htm>. Check categories for 1960s entries.
- *AmericanPresident.org*, <http://www.americanpresident.org/history>. Check out the biographies of Presidents Kennedy and Johnson.
- *AT&T Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Museum*, <http://www.rockhall.com/home/default.asp>. Check out the 1960s entries in the “Today in Rock History” section.
- *Apollo 11 30th Anniversary Site*, http://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/planetary/lunar/apollo_11_30th.html.
- *A Biography of America: The Sixties*, <http://www.learner.org/biographyofamerica/prog24>.
- *Digital History: Learn about the Tumultuous 1960s* <http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/modules/1960s/index.cfm>.
- *Greatest Space Events of the 20th Century: The 60s*. http://www.space.com/news/spacehistory/greatest_space_events_1960s.html.
- *National Organization for Women*, <http://www.now.org>. Click on About, History of NOW.
- *Peace Corps*, <http://www.peacecorps.gov>. Click on Site map, History, Decades of service, 1960s.
- *Seattle Times: Martin Luther King Jr.*, <http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/mlk>.
- *WWW-VL: HISTORY: USA: 1960–1969*, <http://vlib.iue.it/history/USA/ERAS/20TH/1960s.html>. An umbrella site offering many links arranged in the form of an outline of the decade.

Supplemental Resources

Fiction

Black Angels by Rita Murphy. Yearling, 2004. ISBN 0440229340. Fantasy and historical fiction combine in this story of a life-changing summer for a young girl in Mystic, Georgia, when her family's housekeeper becomes involved in the civil rights movement and she uncovers secrets of her own past.

Criss Cross by Lynne Rae Perkins. Newbery Medal. Greenwillow Books, 2005. ISBN 0060092726. This Newbery Award–winner tells four interconnected stories about coming-of-age in a 1960s small town.

Days Like This by J. Torres, illustrated by Scott Chantler. Oni Press, 2003. ISBN 1929998481. This light graphic novel is about a sixties “girl band” discovered at a high school talent show.

Fallen Angels by Walter Dean Myers. Scholastic Paperbacks, 1989. ISBN 0590409433. This Coretta Scott King Award–winner tells of African American soldier Perry's tour of duty in Vietnam, facing not only the Vietcong, but racism in the military as well.

Flying South by Laura Malone Elliott. HarperCollins, 2003. ISBN 0060012145. The setting is Virginia in 1968, and Alice longs for a real relationship with her decidedly unliberated mother, whose biggest concern is landing a rich husband. Issues of civil rights and feminism weave through a compelling family life story.

Full Service by Will Weaver. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005. ISBN 0374324854. After growing up as a farm boy with a strict religious upbringing, Paul is ill-prepared for the diversity of views and values he encounters working at a gas station in town in 1965.

Here and Now by Ann M. Martin. Scholastic, 2004. ISBN 0439579449. The nation's tragedy of Kennedy's assassination in 1963 is compounded for Ellie when her self-centered mother leaves the family to seek stardom in New York.

King of the Creeps by Steven Banks. Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2006. ISBN 0375832912. When Tom, a nerdy teen, notices his resemblance to Bob Dylan, he sets out to change his image by becoming a folk singer. Light but full of decade ambience.

Letters from Wolfie by Patti Sherlock. Viking Juvenile, 2004. ISBN 0670036943. In an unusual perspective on the Vietnam War, Mark enthusiastically offers his beloved dog to serve as a scout dog in Vietnam, and gradually comes to question his choice.

Long Time Passing by Linda Crew. Delacorte Books for Young Readers, 1997. ISBN 0385324960. High schooler Kathy learns to stand up for her convictions as political upheaval impacts life at home and at school.

Our Time on the River by Don Brown. Houghton Mifflin, 2003. ISBN 0618311165. In this wilderness adventure, two teenage brothers explore their relationship and tensions of the times during a river trip just before the older brother leaves to serve in Vietnam.

The Outsiders by S. E. Hinton. Puffin Books, 2003. ISBN 0141314575. This harsh contemporary classic realistically depicts lives of “greasers” and “socs” of the 1960s. Lawlessness and violence, loyalty and posturing, yearning for love, and challenges of poverty and wealth are viewed through the tough-but-sensitive eyes

of 14-year-old Ponyboy Curtis.

Perfect Shot by Elaine Marie Alphin. Carolrhoda Books, 2005. ISBN 1575058626. Period sports murder mystery.

The Return of Gabriel by John Armistead and Fran Gregory. Milkweed Editions, 2002. ISBN 1571316388. It's "Freedom Summer" in Mississippi, and best friends Cooper, who is white, and Jubal, who is black, are caught in the dangerous middle between the Ku Klux Klan and civil rights activists.

Sonny's War by Valerie Hobbs. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006. ISBN 0374469709. Lots of period detail permeates this story of a young woman struggling to adjust to her father's death while her older brother serves in Vietnam.

Spitting Image by Shutta Crum. Clarion Books, 2003. ISBN 0618234772. A young working class girl from rural Kentucky gets involved with volunteers in President Johnson's War on Poverty.

Summer of Kings by Han Nolan. Harcourt Children's Books, 2006. ISBN 0152051082. An angry young black follower of Malcolm X flees murder charges in the South and comes to live with a wealthy white family in New York.

Too Big a Storm by Marsha Qualey. Dial Books, 2004. ISBN 0803728395. The anguish and turmoil of the late 60s are tangible in this novel about the awakening of a prim and proper young woman to compounded personal grief, anti-war radicalism, and the countercultural freedoms of the decade.

The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963 by Christopher Paul Curtis. Newbery Medal. Yearling, 1997. ISBN 0440414121. An African American family is impacted by a racist church bombing while visiting in Alabama.

Where Have All the Flowers Gone? The Diary of Molly MacKenzie Flaherty by Ellen Emerson White. Scholastic, 2002. ISBN 0439148898. A teenage girl struggles to understand bigger issues surrounding the Vietnam War while worrying about her brother, who is serving in the army there.

Nonfiction

The '60s for Dummies by Brian Cassity and Maxine Levaren. Wiley Publishing, Inc., 2005. ISBN 0764584146.

Freedom Riders: John Lewis and Jim Zwerg on the Front Lines of the Civil Rights Movement by Ann Bausum. National Geographic Children's Books, 2005. ISBN 0792241738.

Life: Our Century in Pictures for Young People, edited by Richard B. Stolley. Little, Brown and Company, 2000. ISBN 0316815896.

Ms.: The Story of Gloria Steinem by Elizabeth Wheaton. Morgan Reynolds, 2002. ISBN 188384682X.

A Multicultural Portrait of the Vietnam War by David K. Wright. Benchmark Books, 1995. ISBN 0761400524.

Our American Century: Events that Shaped the Century by the editors of Time-Life Books. Time-Life, 1998. ISBN 0783555024.

Through My Eyes by Ruby Bridges. Scholastic Press, 1999. ISBN 0590189239.

Visual Timeline of the 20th Century by Simon Adams. Dorling Kindersley, 1996. ISBN 0789409976.

Nonprint

Casey Kasem Presents: America's Top Ten - The 60s Motown's Greatest Hits, by varied artists. Topsail Productions, 2003 (Music CD). UPC: 805667189521.

Web Sites

- *American Architecture—Twentieth Century—1960–1969*, http://www.greatbuildings.com/types/usa/usa_1960-1969.html.
- *The Authentic History Center: Primary Sources from American Popular Culture, 1960s*, <http://www.authentichistory.com/1960s.html>. This interesting site tells stories of the period through audio clips and images from pop culture.
- *Film History of the 1960s*, <http://www.filmsite.org/60sintro.html>.
- *Media History Timeline: The 1960s*, <http://www.mediahistory.umn.edu/time/1960s.html>. Very detailed chronology of noteworthy events.
- *PBS The Sixties Timeline*, <http://www.pbs.org/opb/thesixties/timeline/index.html>.
- *A Science Odyssey: Then + Now*, <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aso/thenandnow>. A chronology with a focus on advances in science and technology.
- *Southern Music Network*, <http://www.southernmusic.net/1960.htm>. An interesting overview the decade's music.

The 1970s

- Student Guide
- Suggested Resources
- Events and Issues Timeline: America and the World
- Events and Issues Timeline: Family Life, Work, and School
- Events and Issues Timeline: Science and Technology
- Events and Issues Timeline: Key Social Issues
- Events and Issues Timeline: Arts, Sports, and Culture
- Supplemental Resources

Dynamic Decades: America in the 1970s

Student Guide

Dear Student,

Meet Emily Granger and George Reynolds. These fictional characters, whose lives exactly spanned the 20th century, will accompany you as you explore life in America in the 1970s. Emily is a woman of European ancestry, who grew up in a rural Alabama town. George is African American, and lived his life in the Chicago area. Born in 1900, both are in their seventies during the 1970s. Through letters, which you find later in this Student Guide, they will share bits of their stories and offer personal perspectives on events and issues of the period. As you study the 1970s, keep in mind how Emily and George might have felt about or been involved in the events and issues you encounter. Try to see things through their eyes, so that in your unit project you can reflect their experiences and perspectives.

In this unit, you will be part of a group, researching a particular aspect of the 1970s, sharing your findings with your group, and working cooperatively to plan and present a project that demonstrates in a creative way what you've learned. You may be asked to form, and defend, a personal position on a key event or issue of the decade.

The 1970s

The 1970s has been called "The Me Decade" and "The Decade That Never Happened." Much of the decade's drama came from ongoing issues that dominated the 60s and set up trends that would dominate the 80s. Among the enduring symbols of the decade in popular culture are that insipid yellow "smiley face" and the image of John Travolta in his famous disco pose.

By the mid-1970s, when the Vietnam War ended in sad defeat, the nation was bitter and tired. The killing of four students by National Guard members during an antiwar protest at Kent State University in 1970 horrified Americans. Public disillusionment grew with the Watergate scandal, which ended in President Nixon's humiliating resignation from office. Disgusted with government and politicians, many people turned their attention to self-discovery and personal fulfillment. While some championed public causes like environmentalism, feminism, or civil rights; others "dropped out" to experiment with communal living, embraced personal health and fitness fads, or explored Eastern spiritual movements. Cult activity flourished; the world was stunned when a California-based group called The People's Temple committed mass suicide in the jungles of Guyana.

At the same time, the economy was in recession, with rising fuel prices, inflation, and unemployment, reinforcing the tendency to focus on personal needs and problems. The grand celebration of America's Bicentennial in 1976 took place under a cloud of profound problems. The Iran hostage crisis of 1979 closed a troubled decade on a characteristically disturbing note.

Despite the "Me" focus, there were many positive developments during the 1970s. Space exploration continued in a more cooperative spirit, dramatically symbolized when America's Apollo spacecraft docked in space with the USSR's Soyuz. Women and minorities advanced their cam-

paigns for social justice. New awareness of the importance of caring for the environment sparked official, as well as personal, action. On the global stage, President Carter brokered important peace negotiations between Egypt and Israel.

As you study the 1970s, talk to your parents, grandparents or other adults who remember the time. Their memories might shed interesting, surprising light on the period. Now let's see what our two fictional characters have to say about life in the 1970s.

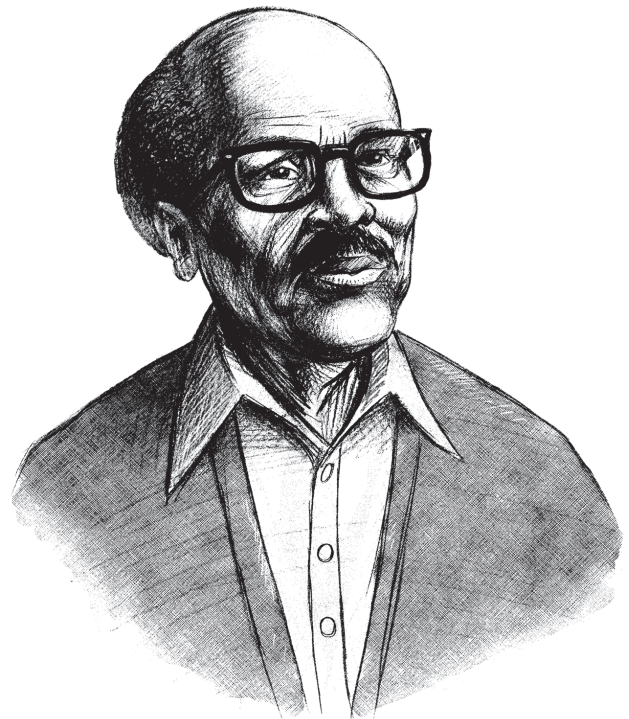


Emily Granger

Emily Maude (Grantham) Granger, born January 1, 1900; died December 31, 1999. Emily's grandparents came to America from Germany in the 1880s. Her father was a U.S. Army Lieutenant and her mother a homemaker; Emily was the youngest of five children. Her family lived in the small coal mining town of Blocton, Alabama. Emily's father died in France in 1918, fighting for the Allies in World War I. Emily graduated from the local high school and married her high school sweetheart, Joseph Granger, in 1919. The Grangers had four daughters. Emily was a homemaker until her husband died in 1942 while serving as a soldier in World War II. She went to work at a factory in Birmingham to support the war effort. Emily lost her job when the soldiers returned after the War. She lived out her life in Birmingham with her oldest daughter, enjoying a large family of children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren.

George Reynolds

George Abraham Reynolds, born January 1, 1900; died December 31, 1999. George was African American, the son of a Pullman porter and a seamstress; the grandson of slaves. He had an older brother and a younger sister. George was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. He graduated from the University of Chicago in 1922, and pursued a career as a newspaper reporter for a publication written for African Americans. George married Francine Norris in 1927. He and his wife had a son and two daughters. He retired in 1972; his wife died in 1978.



January 8, 1974

Dear Junior,

How are you, dear boy? Your parents tell me that you're having a hard time. It's no wonder, with all you've been through in Vietnam and since you've come home. Does it ease your mind to know that our soldiers are finally all home? It's bad enough to have to fight in such an awful war, without having people disrespect you afterward. I know lots of people think the war was wrong. But I'll never understand how they can be rude and cruel to people like you who just did your duty and served your country.

I'm sure it doesn't help much to have your old grandmother tell you to look on the bright side of things. Still, I need to tell you that after losing your great-grandfather and your dear grandfather to war, I thank God that we got you home all in one piece. And I know they would both be proud of you for having the courage to do your duty when your country called on you. War is a terrible, terrible thing, even when everyone supports it; not like this one. But you survived, and now you have a chance to put it behind you and make a good life for yourself. I see young men all too often in wheelchairs or with missing limbs as the price they paid for being soldiers. At least you are whole, and you can live and work without those limits. Your mother tells me that the memories of all the suffering you saw and lived through leave wounds that are just as real as missing limbs, and I imagine she's right. But being angry and bitter never helped anyone. And it's no shame to ask for the help you need.

Won't you come home and let the people at the Veterans Hospital help you sort things out and start over? It breaks your parents' hearts to think of you out there, drifting around and unhappy, barely getting by. Mine, too. We have plenty of room for you here. And we'd try very hard not to fuss over you too much. You never did like to be fussed over! But we'd know you're safe and loved and getting help. Mr. Richardson says he has a job for you at the plant anytime you want it. And maybe, after things settle down a bit and you decide what you'd like to do, you could use the GI Bill to go to school. I know you and your sister Beth have fought about all of this before. But she loves you and wants you to be happy, too. She'd be glad to have you nearby, and we'd see to it that she didn't give you any trouble! Please think about it.

There, I've said my piece about that. On to cheerier things. I thought of you the other day, when I was reading about Bobby Fischer becoming the world chess champ. Do you still like to play chess? I hope you have people there to give you a good game. You used to enjoy it so much! I remember when you started to beat your father—he was half annoyed, half proud to admit that you were a better player! Your cousin Paul is showing the same enthusiasm for a new game—Dungeons & Dragons, I think he calls it. He and his friends spend hours making up the wildest stories and characters—I can't begin to understand it all! Maybe you would. You always had a good imagination.

Please come home to us. We all love you. I pray for you every day.

Grandma Granger

November, 1976

Dear Reg,

Well, it looks like our new President will be a Baptist peanut farmer from Georgia! I think I'm glad, though I have some reservations, as you know. But it does sit easier with me to have a president we've actually elected in the White House. We could certainly use a fresh start, after the craziness of the last 10 years or so!

We haven't exchanged letters for a while. I wonder what you thought about all the Bicentennial hoopla. While I enjoyed watching the spectacle, I found myself dwelling on the irony of showing the world such a lavish celebration, while we're reeling from such serious problems as a nation. I'd bet the founding fathers never imagined we'd celebrate our 200th birthday under the clouds of losing a pointless war and having a president resign in disgrace! Still, I'm an optimist at heart, and I see hopeful signs for the future, too. Seeing the pictures of Mars from Viking I was such a thrill, and docking with Soyuz in space seems like a heartening breakthrough in global cooperation. And a black man won Wimbledon! We're coming up in the world, my friend! Maybe the next 200 years will be better. . .

So what do you think about the investigations into the JFK and MLK assassinations? I'm glad to see it. I've never been convinced we were told the whole story about those killings.

Francine and I bought a new car. I felt a little guilty about buying a foreign car, but the truth is that the Toyota was just a better deal for us. With gas prices where they are and living on a pension, we have to be practical about these things. I still miss going to work at the newspaper, but I must admit I'm glad not to have to worry about my job. The Defender let another reporter go last week. This area is really feeling the pinch of higher prices and growing unemployment.

I'm still working on writing "the great American novel." I don't know if I'll ever finish it, but Francine encourages me because she says it keeps me busy and out of trouble. Are you still doing some freelance writing for the newspaper there? Have you done anything more about your idea for a book about the New York City doctor's strike? I think it could make a great story. Though after Gary Trudeau's Pulitzer,

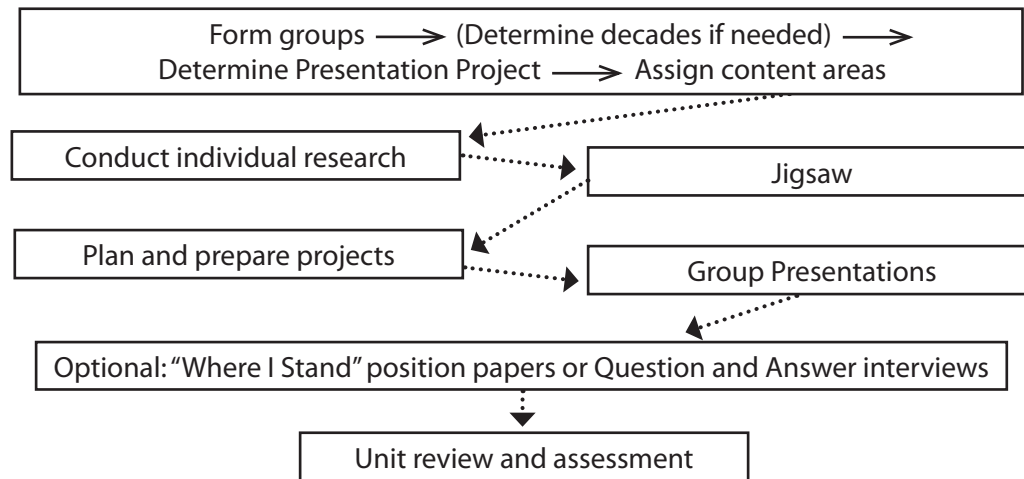
maybe we should think about switching to making comic strips!

And speaking of The Big Apple, what would you think about some company sometime early next year after the winter weather breaks? We're talking about testing out the Toyota on a road trip your way. Haven't been to the big city for a long time, and who knows how much longer we'll be up to traveling? Francine has gotten it into her head that she wants to see The Wiz on Broadway, and I certainly agree that it's been too long since we saw you and Grace. Besides, after the bankruptcy bailout, we figure New York could use a few imported dollars from Chicago! What do you say?

*Your true-blue friend,
George*

Now that you've been introduced to Emily, George, and the 1970s, you're ready to begin. This section will take you through the project, step by step. Enjoy your exploration of this *Dynamic Decade*!

Here's an overview.



Steps to follow:

1. Form your group, determine the decade(s) you'll study, the project you will present, and when your presentation is due. Write the appropriate information on your *Dynamic Decades* Student Assignment Form. Optional presentation projects include:
 - Write, stage, costume, rehearse, and present an original "American Life in the 1970s" skit
 - Create, explain, read excerpts from, and display a "Decade in Review" newspaper
 - Create, explain, and demonstrate a "Fascinating Facts" quiz game
2. Which content area(s) will you research for your group? Write it or them on your *Dynamic Decades* Student Assignment Form.
 - America and the world
 - Family life, work, and school
 - Science and technology
 - Key social issues
 - Arts, sports, and culture
3. Use resources from the Suggested Resources list or others recommended by your teacher to research your content area(s). Follow the Big6 research process or another process explained by your teacher. Use the Research Worksheet to help you find, record, and organize information. Use your Chronology and Issues sheets to orient you to your decade(s) and as sources for specific events or items to investigate and incorporate in your group's project. NOTE: You will turn in your Research Worksheet and your notes, so keep them neat and readable!
4. Meet in Jigsaw groups with other specialists in your content area. Exchange ideas and take notes on your Research Worksheet or additional paper.

5. Check out new sources or ideas from your content specialist meeting.
6. Report on your content area to your original group.
7. Plan and prepare your presentation project, fine tuning and supplementing your individual research as needed for the project. Be sure to build all the requirements from your Project Guidelines sheet into your project. Be creative, and don't forget to include George's and Emily's viewpoints in your project.
8. Present your group's project to the class.
9. (Prepare and present your "Where I Stand" position paper or Question & Answer interview, if assigned.)
10. Participate in the unit review and turn in your worksheet and notes.

Dynamic Decades: 1970s

America and the World

1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
Students protest U.S. invasion of Cambodia	Greenpeace environmental organization founded	Nixon first President to visit China, then Moscow	Peace agreement signed, last troops leave Vietnam	Russian dancer Baryshnikov defects to U.S.	U.S., Soviet space vehicles link up in space	Jimmy Carter elected President	Carter signs Panama Canal Treaty	Egypt-Israel peace talks at Camp David	Hostage crisis at U.S. Embassy in Iran
Kissinger holds secret peace talks in Paris	<i>Mariner 9</i> successfully orbits Mars	Kissinger announces "peace at hand" in Vietnam	OPEC oil embargo spotlights U.S. dependence on foreign oil	First warnings that CFCs damage the ozone layer	Arthur Ashe first African American to win Wimbledon	<i>Viking 1</i> transmits pictures from Mars	Highest trade deficit in history at \$31.1 billion	Isaac Bashevis Singer wins Nobel literature prize	U.S., USSR sign arms treaty
Intel introduces computer microchip	Nixon ends 20-year embargo against China	UN asks U.S. to stop bombing North Vietnam	U.S. launches <i>SkyLab</i> space station			Saul Bellow wins Nobel Literature prize		U.S. <i>Pioneer</i> reaches Venus	Camp David Accords between Egypt, Israel, signed
		Nixon reelected by landslide	UN launches Anti-Racism Decade					Coca-Cola Company starts to sell in China	U.S. officially recognizes People's Republic of China
		Nixon escalates bombing in Vietnam	first U.S. POWs return from North Vietnam					People's Temple cultists commit mass suicide in Jonestown, Guyana	
		Space probe <i>Pioneer 10</i> launched	World's tallest building, Sears Tower, completed in Chicago						
		Bobby Fischer wins world chess title							
		U.S. astronauts explore moon							

KEY ISSUES

- U.S. foreign affairs dominated by Vietnam War at beginning of decade, Middle East tensions and defusing the Cold War at end
- Space exploration continues with greater international cooperation
- OPEC oil embargo highlights problem of U.S. dependence on foreign oil
- Advancing communications and transportation technology continue to "shrink" the world
- Concern grows over damage to earth's environment

Dynamic Decades: 1970s

Family Life, Work, and School

1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
Computer floppy disk introduced	Nixon signs \$25 billion tax cut	Dow-Jones average hits 1000 for first time	CB radios popular	Nixon raises minimum wage to \$2.30	Home VCR introduced	Apple I computer developed	Drought leads to water rationing in CA	Personal computers available	Cesar Chavez leads United Farm Workers strike
First major postal workers strike	75% of Americans have high school diplomas	First co-ed dorms at University of Michigan	Supreme Court overturns state abortion laws in <i>Roe v. Wade</i>	Federal Reserve Chairman declares recession	Domestic car sales lag	Call waiting feature available on home phones	SAT scores hit all-time low	Coal miners strike for 110 days	First woman U.S. Education Secretary
4 students killed by National Guard at university antiwar rally	Supreme Court upholds busing to integrate schools		Congress reduces interstate speed limit to 55 to save fuel	Maternity leave for teachers approved by Supreme Court	NYC hospital doctors go on strike		Supreme Court OKs spanking students in classroom	Hannah Gray is first female president of co-ed university	Inflation hits double digits
Texas Instruments introduces pocket calculator	Disney World opens in Florida		Nationwide teacher strikes		Exxon Corporation is nations richest company			White student challenges University of CA med school's minority admissions quotas	Height of OPEC oil embargo energy crisis
Majority of Americans live in suburbs					Unemployment hits 8.2%			Coca-Cola Company starts to sell in China	CA begins gas rationing
Congress passes OSHA legislation									Government bails out Chrysler Corporation with \$1.5 billion loan
Students protest U.S. invasion of Cambodia									
AL Governor Wallace encourages defiance of federal integration orders									

KEY ISSUES

- Feminism makes gains, remains controversial in home, workplace
- Universities continue to be hotbeds of political dissent
- Television alters access to information, brings the world into our living rooms
- Forced integration of schools continues, with controversy and occasional violence
- Conflicting views of war and lifestyle divide families, generations
- Organized workers strike to improve conditions
- Sexual revolution and abortion issue challenge traditional values
- Recession, energy crisis create hardships for some families and businesses
- Personal computers begin to revolutionize workplaces, homes, and schools

Dynamic Decades: 1970s

Science and Technology

1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
Computer floppy disk introduced	<i>Mariner 9</i> successfully orbits Mars	Space probe Pioneer 10 launched	CB radios popular	First warnings that CFCs damage the ozone layer	First "monster trucks" built	<i>Viking I</i> transmits pictures from Mars	MRI scanner tested	Personal computers available	Three Mile Island nuclear accident
Boeing 747 enters commercial service		U.S. astronauts explore moon	U.S. launches <i>SkyLab</i> space station	Heimlich maneuver introduced for choking	Home VCR introduced	Apple I computer developed		U.S. <i>Pioneer</i> reaches Venus	
Intel introduces computer microchip		EPA bans use of many pesticides	World's tallest building, Sears Tower, completed in Chicago	CAT scan comes into general use	U.S., Soviet space vehicles link up in space	Outbreak of Legionnaires' Disease baffles officials			
Texas Instruments introduces pocket calculator		Air pollution blamed for high cancer rates in cities			Controversy over keeping Karen Anne Quinlan on life support	Genentech is first company creating products via genetic engineering			

KEY ISSUES

- Advancing communications and transportation technology continue to "shrink" the world
- Space exploration advances with more international cooperation
- Concern grows over damage to earth's environment
- Computer technology increasingly available to business and individuals
- Health care benefits from advancing computer and other technology

Dynamic Decades: 1970s

Key Social Issues

1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
First Earth Day celebrated	26th Amendment lowers voting age to 18	Watergate scandal breaks	Peace agreement signed, last troops leave Vietnam	Nixon impeached in Congress	Powerful Teamster Jimmy Hoffa disappears	Bicentennial celebration	Drought leads to water rationing in CA	Taxpayer revolt starts with Proposition 13 in CA	Jerry Falwell organizes Moral Majority lobby
4 students killed by National Guard at university antiwar rally	Greenpeace environmental organization founded	Kissinger announces "peace at hand" in Vietnam	Senate investigates Watergate affair, abuses of power by Nixon	Nixon resigns; Ford first President not elected	Controversy over keeping Karen Anne Quinlan on life support	Barbara Walters highest paid woman on TV	Power blackout in NYC results in looting rampage	First woman chosen for NASA training program	Three Mile Island nuclear accident
Students protest U.S. invasion of Cambodia	Antiwar rallies in Washington D.C.	Nixon reelected by landslide	VP Agnew resigns due to tax evasion charges, Ford appointed VP	Ford pardons Nixon's federal crimes	Ford bails out bankrupt NYC with \$2.3 billion	Ford orders end to CIA, FBI spying on Americans	PA flood kills 76	65,000 women march to support ERA in Washington D.C.	Hostage crisis at U.S. Embassy in Iran
Environmental Protection Agency created	Lt. Calley convicted of My Lai massacre in Vietnam	Nixon escalates bombing in Vietnam	OPEC oil embargo spotlights U.S. dependence on foreign oil	Ford offers amnesty to Vietnam War draft dodgers		Congress orders investigation of killings of JFK, ML King	"Son of Sam" murder spree in NY	Carter postpones production of neutron bomb	U.S., USSR sign arms treaty
U.S. troop deaths in Vietnam hit 44,000	Pentagon Papers leak to press	AIM seizes Bureau of Indian Affairs	Supreme Court overturns state abortion laws in <i>Roe v. Wade</i>	Ford victim of assassination attempts		CA passes "right to die" law	first National Women's Conference, TX	Interest in physical fitness surges	First woman U.S. Education Secretary
Police-inspired riot in East LA fuels Hispanic civil rights movement	Attica prison riot kills 43	Steinem publishes first issue of <i>Ms</i>	Nixon signs Alaska pipeline bill	Indian Self-Determination Act passed		Jimmy Carter elected President	Highest trade deficit in history at \$31.1 billion	White student challenges U of CA med school's minority admissions quotas	Cesar Chavez leads United Farm Workers strike
AL Governor Wallace encourages defiance of federal integration orders	Cigarette ads banned from radio, TV	Surgeon General warns about second-hand smoke	First 3 African American mayors elected	New York Times reports CIA spied on opponents of Vietnam War				People's Temple cultists commit mass suicide in Jonestown, Guyana	100,000 march on Washington to support gay liberation
First major postal workers strike	Supreme Court upholds busing to integrate schools	AL Governor Wallace shot	AIM protest at Wounded Knee, SD	Nixon raises minimum wage to \$2.30					Over 14.5 million Hispanics in U.S.

KEY ISSUES

- Feminism, expanding civil rights movement make gains, experience backlash
- Hispanics, Native Americans increasingly seek civil rights
- Controversy over Vietnam War/antiwar movement
- Conflicting views of war and lifestyle divide families, generations
- The Cold War thaws by end of decade
- Watergate scandal, CIA spying, Agnew and Nixon resignations fuel mistrust of government
- Growing media shapes public knowledge, perception of issues
- Concern grows over damage to earth's environment
- Forced integration of schools continues, with controversy and occasional violence
- Organized workers strike to improve conditions
- Sexual revolution and abortion issue challenge traditional values
- Energy crisis raises awareness of dangers of dependence on foreign oil
- Personal computers begin to revolutionize workplaces, homes, and schools

Dynamic Decades: 1970s

Arts, Sports, and Culture

1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
Movie <i>Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid</i> popular	Famous yellow smiley face appears	Pong is first computer video game	Secretariat wins Triple Crown	Hank Aaron beats Babe Ruth's home run record	Home VCR introduced	Barbara Walters highest paid woman on TV	first <i>Star Wars</i> movie huge hit	Movie <i>Saturday Night Fever</i> feeds disco craze	Movie <i>Alien</i> scares viewers
Simon & Garfunkel top charts	<i>Jesus Christ Superstar</i> hits Broadway	Olympics in Munich	Miami Dolphins complete perfect season	Muhammad Ali regains heavyweight crown	Mood rings, "pet rocks," skateboarding popular	<i>Rocky</i> opens in theaters	<i>Roots</i> miniseries has largest TV audience ever	Movies <i>Coming Home</i> and <i>The Deer Hunter</i> reflect on Vietnam War	Walkman personal stereo instant success
<i>Casey Kasem's American Top 40</i> debuts on radio	<i>Sonny and Cher Show</i> hits TV	Movie <i>Cabaret</i> opens	Adams's <i>Water-ship Down</i> published	Movie <i>The Exorcist</i> shocks public	All-black musical <i>The Wiz</i> hits Broadway	<i>M*A*S*H*</i> among top TV shows	<i>Annie Hall</i> named Best Picture	<i>Grease</i> opens in theaters	Sally Field wins Oscar for <i>Norma Rae</i>
3 women win National Book Awards	Carol King's <i>Tapestry</i> top album	Bobby Fischer wins world chess title	Flared pants, platform shoes, "hot pants," "tie-dyed T" shirts popular	Russian dancer Baryshnikov defects to U.S.	Movie <i>Jaws</i> hits theaters	Movie <i>Stay Hungry</i> features body-builder Arnold Schwarzenegger	Studio 54 disco club opens in NY	<i>Mork and Mindy</i> launches Robin Williams	Judy Chicago's feminist art displayed at Museum of Modern Art
Monday Night Football debuts on TV	Disney World opens in Florida	Steinem publishes first issue of <i>Ms</i>	Billie Jean King wins U.S. Open	Elton John tops charts	Arthur Ashe first African American to win Wimbledon	Saul Bellow wins Nobel literature prize	"Egyptmania" takes hold after King Tut exhibition tours	Calvin Klein introduces designer jeans	
		Movie <i>Godfather</i> released	Levi Company holds Denim Art Contest	<i>Happy Days</i> hits TV	Evel Knievel jumps 14 buses on motorcycle	Nike shoes available to public	Christian Broadcasting Network debuts	Isaac Bashevis Singer wins Nobel literature prize	
		HBO cable TV channel premieres	Fantasy game Dungeons and Dragons created	"Streaking" fad sweeps country	Gary Trudeau wins Pulitzer Prize for <i>Doonesbury</i> comic strip				

KEY ISSUES

- Youth culture characterized by extremes in fashion
- Antiwar sentiment, feminism polarize society
- Advancing technology gives individuals control of entertainment via VCRs, Walkman stereos, computer games, etc.
- Arts and culture reflect both social issues of the decade and lighthearted escapism
- Space exploration inspires popular culture

Suggested Resources

Print

The 1970s by Gail Stewart (A Cultural History of the United States through the Decades series). Lucent Books, 1998. ISBN 1560065575.

1970s by Adam Woog (American History by Decade series). Kidhaven Press, 2003. ISBN 0737717491.

The 1970s by Tim Healey (Picture History of the 20th Century series). Sea to Sea Publications, 2005. ISBN 1932889752.

The 1970s: From Watergate to Disco by Stephen Feinstein (Decades of the 20th Century series). Enslow, 2006. ISBN 076602637X.

The 70s by Dan Epstein (20th Century Pop Culture series). Chelsea House, 2000. ISBN 079106087X.

All the People 1945–2001 by Joy Hakim (A History of Us series, Volume 10). Oxford University Press, 2002. ISBN 0195153383.

Bowling, Beatniks, and Bell-Bottoms: Pop Culture of 20th Century America edited by Sara Pendergast and Tom Pendergast. Thomson Gale, 2002 (Volume 4). ISBN 0787757755.

The Century for Young People by Peter Jennings, Todd Brewster, and Jennifer Armstrong. Doubleday Books for Young Readers, 1999. ISBN 0385327080.

The Changing Face of American Society 1945–2000 by Christopher Collier and James Lincoln Collier (The Drama of American History series). Benchmark Books, 2002. ISBN 0771413197.

A Dream of Freedom: The Civil Rights Movement from 1954 to 1978 by Diane McWhorter. Scholastic Nonfiction, 2004. ISBN 0439577784.

Fashions of a Decade—the 1970s by Bailey Publishing Associates and Jacqueline Herald (Fashions of a Decade series). Chelsea House, 2006. ISBN 0816067236.

The Great Society to the Reagan Era: 1964–1990 by William Loren Katz (A History of Multicultural America series). Steck-Vaughn, 1996. ISBN 0811429377.

It Seemed Like Nothing Happened: America in the 1970s by Peter Carroll. Rutgers University Press, 1990. ISBN 0813515386.

The Kent State Tragedy by Rachel A. Koestler-Grack (American Moments series). ABDO, 2005. ISBN 159197934X.

The Middle Road: American Politics 1945–2000 by Christopher Collier and James Lincoln Collier (The Drama of American History series). Benchmark Books, 2002. ISBN 0771413189.

Oxford Children's Book of the 20th Century: A Concise Guide to a Century of Contrast and Change by Stewart Ross. Oxford University Press, 1999. ISBN 0195214889.

The Seventies by R. G. Grant (Look at Life In series). Raintree, 2000. ISBN 0739813404.

UXL American Decades—1970–1979 by Tom & Sara Pendergast & Rob Nagel. UXL, 2003. ISBN 0787664626.

Watergate: Scandal in the White House by Dale Anderson (Snapshots in History series). Compass Point Books, 2006. ISBN 075652010X.

Nonprint

All the President's Men directed by Alan J. Pakula. Warner Home Video, 2006 (DVD). ASIN: B000CEXEWA.

The Iran Hostage Crisis: 444 Days to Freedom (What Really Happened in Iran). View Video, 2006 (DVD). ASIN B000GAKE0K.

The Hit List: 24 Hot 100 American Chartbusters of the 1970s by varied artists. Ace Records UK, 2004 (Music CD). ASIN: B0002XB8NS.

Web Sites

- *American Cultural History: 1970–1979*, <http://kclibrary.nhmccd.edu/decade70.html>.
- *AmericanPresident.org*, <http://www.americanpresident.org/history>. Check out biographies of Presidents Johnson, Nixon, Ford, and Carter.
- *AT&T Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Museum*, <http://www.rockhall.com/home/default.asp>. Check out the 1970s entries in the “Today in Rock History” section.
- *Digital History: The Vietnam War*, <http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/modules/vietnam/index.cfm>.
- *Greatest Space Events of the 20th Century: The 70s*, http://www.space.com/news/spacehistory/greatest_70s_991230.html.
- *Twentieth Century Inventions 1900–1999*, <http://inventors.about.com/library/weekly/aa010500a.htm>. Year by year highlights with links to further information.
- *Watergate.info*, <http://watergate.info>. Anything you want to know about the Watergate scandal and its aftermath.
- *WWW-VL: History: USA: 1970–1979*, <http://vlib.iue.it/history/USA/ERAS/20TH/1970s.html>. An umbrella site offering many links arranged in the form of an outline of the decade.

Supplemental Resources

Fiction

The 1970s: Arguments by Dorothy and Tom Hoobler. The Millbrook Press, 2002. ISBN 0761316078. This installment of the saga of two related families throughout the 20th century follows 13-year-old Sam, who is disenchanted with life on a commune, and Lucy, whose family is divided as one brother goes to fight in Vietnam and the other protests the war.

Accidents of Nature by Harriet McBryde Johnson. Henry Holt and Company, 2006. ISBN 0805076344. Jean, who has cerebral palsy but has always “fit” in the normal world, sees her disability and her world in a new way when she spends ten days at Camp Courage with other disabled teens. Feisty characters and irreverence make this a lively read that stimulates thought about how attitudes toward the disabled have changed since 1970.

Are You there God? It's Me, Margaret by Judy Blume. Atheneum Reprint, 2001. ISBN 0689841582. The summer before 6th grade Margaret's family moves to a new state. The only one of her new friends with “no religion,” Margaret decides to visit churches and a synagogue to see where she might fit. Through it all, Margaret shares her wishes and fears with God in an honest, natural voice.

Beacon Hill Boys by Ken Mochizuki. Scholastic, Inc., 2004. ISBN 0439249066. Dan and his friends are Japanese American high school juniors in Seattle in 1972. Dan's parents expect him to live up to his older brother's accomplishments. But the Black Power movement is growing in his ethnically diverse high school, his parents won't discuss the sad history of Japanese in America, and he and his buddies struggle in different ways to claim their own identity.

Betrayed! The 1977 Journal of Zeke Moorie by Bill Doyle. Little Brown Young Readers, 2006. ISBN 031605741X. In this *Crime Through Time* series title, Zeke joins a disco fundraising tour to promote a King Tut exhibition. As he sleuths his way through a series of mysteries, and investigates an ancient curse, we learn about crime detection and other details from 1977 America.

Free Radical by Claire Rudolph Murphy. Clarion Books, 2002. ISBN 0618111344. Fifteen-year-old Luke, whose life in Fairbanks, Alaska revolves around baseball, is stunned to learn that his mother is a fugitive from the law. Thirty years before, she was involved in a bombing to protest the Vietnam War that killed a young man. Overcome with guilt, she decides to turn herself in, setting off a sequence of events that alters many lives.

Georgie's Moon by Chris Woodworth. Farar, Straus and Giroux, 2006. ISBN 0374333068. When Georgie's father left to fight in Vietnam, he told her to be a good soldier and never let anyone mess with her. Georgie takes the advice to heart, as she starts a new school. She misses her father terribly, and is full of pain and anger which get her in trouble. It doesn't help that many classmates are vocally opposed to the war. But is there more behind Georgie's combative behavior than meets the eye?

Gold Dust by Chris Lynch. HarperCollins, 2002. ISBN 0064472019. Issues of school busing, classism and racism, and an unlikely friendship in 1975 Boston form the background for this story that is, ultimately, about a passion for baseball.

The Heights, the Depths, and Everything in Between by Sally Nemeth. Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2006. ISBN 0375834583. Too-tall Lucy and her too-small best friend Jake are the ultimate junior high misfits, whether it's 1977 or 2007. In this honest, sometimes funny story, the two struggle with problems at home, questionable new relationships, and their changing friendship.

The Liberation of Gabriel King by K. L. Going. Puffin Reprint, 2007. ISBN 0142407666. Gabriel fears many things, including starting fifth grade, where he'll be at the mercy of older bullies. His African American friend Frita determines to spend the summer of 1976 freeing Gabriel of his fears. But the stakes rise as the two come up against racist threats by the Ku Klux Klan.

The Life History of a Star by Kelly Easton. Simon Pulse, 2002. ISBN 0689852703. Fourteen-year-old Kristin's diary entries from 1973–74 reveal both the normal angst of a young teen, and the wrenching anguish of a family torn apart by war. Kristin's beloved brother returned from Vietnam a ruined shell, and lives a reclusive life in the attic. As the year progresses, Kristin moves from angry denial to purging grief.

Little Cricket by Jackie Brown. Hyperion, 2004. ISBN 0786818522. When North Vietnamese soldiers attack Kia's Laotian village, her family flees and is separated. Kia and part of her family make their way as refugees to Minnesota, where they struggle with homesickness and the isolation of shock and immersion in a foreign culture. Compelling, gentle and, ultimately, uplifting.

Little Miss Strange by Joanna Rose. Simon & Schuster, 1998. ISBN 0684847418. This book follows Sarajeau through eight years of growing up in a hippie commune in Denver. Though the plot is as loose as the structure of life in the commune, Sarajeau is a memorable character and details of her bizarre childhood, surrounded by drug use and free love, paint a dramatic picture of one aspect of life in the 70s.

My Road Trip to the Pretty Girl Capital of the World by Brian Yansky. Cricket Books, 2003. ISBN 0812626915. Simon, dumped by his girlfriend and in trouble with the law and school authorities, hits the road to find his birth parents. On his way from Iowa to Texas he meets a series of offbeat characters, learns about himself, and makes peace with his past.

Postcards to Father Abraham by Catherine Lewis. Atheneum, 2000. ISBN 0689828527. The setting is a Springfield, Illinois hospital in 1972. Sixteen-year-old Meghan rages at the sudden loss of her leg to cancer—a fact that is especially devastating for a promising runner. With no one to turn to, Meghan writes her burning thoughts and agonizing questions about war, pain, loss, grief in post cards to her idol, Abraham Lincoln.

The Protester's Song by Mark Delaney. Peachtree Publishers, 2001. ISBN 1561452440. In this *Misfits, Inc.* series title, four teenage detectives investigate a 30-year-old mystery and FBI cover-up involving a bombing at a campus anti-war rally in the early 1970s.

Songs of Faith by Angela Johnson. Scholastic, 1998. ISBN 0531300234. Harvey, Ohio, in 1975, is a dismal place, full of fractured families, men destroyed by the Vietnam War, unemployment, and poverty. Thirteen-year-old Doreen and her brother struggle with all these challenges. While the contrast between cheery preparations for the nation's bicentennial celebration and the painful realities of Doreen's life is stark, an ultimate message of love and hope prevails.

Sweet Thang by Allison Whittenberg. Delacorte Books for Young Readers, 2006. ISBN 0385732929. Teenager Charmaine resents her young orphaned cousin, who moves in with her family and disrupts her life. Details of Philadelphia in the 1970s, and of Charmaine's crush on a boy who is using her to do his homework, weave through this family and relationship story.

The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien. Broadway Reprint, 1998. ISBN 0767902890. This collection of related short stories about the men of Alpha Company reflects truths the author gleaned from his time serving in the Vietnam War. This won a number of awards for its honesty and insight about the war and the men who fought it.

When Zachary Beaver Came to Town by Kimberly Willis Holt. ALA Notable Book. Yearling, 2001. ISBN 0440229049. Two friends spend a memorable summer learning about dealing with friendships and the unexpected. Packed with '60s detail.

Nonfiction

The 1970s by Ken Hills (Take Ten Years series). Evans Publishing Group, 1996. ISBN 0237516829.

The Doonesbury Chronicles by Garry Trudeau. Henry Holt & Company, 1975. ISBN: 0030152569.

The Final Days by Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein. Simon & Schuster, 2005. ISBN 0743274067.

Funny in Farsi by Firoozeh Dumas. Random House Trade Paperbacks, 2004. ISBN 0812968379.

Lakota Woman by Mary Crow Dog. Harper Perennial, 1991. ISBN 0060973897.

Life: Our Century in Pictures for Young People, edited by Richard B. Stolley. Little, Brown and Company, 2000. ISBN 0316815896.

Ms.: The Story of Gloria Steinem by Elizabeth Wheaton. Morgan Reynolds, 2002. ISBN 188384682X.

A Multicultural Portrait of the Vietnam War by David K. Wright. Benchmark Books, 1995. ISBN 0761400524.

Our American Century: Events that Shaped the Century by the editors of Time-Life Books. Time-Life, 1998. ISBN 0783555024.

Patty Hearst: Her Own Story by Patricia Hearst and Alvin Moscow. Avon Books, 1988. ISBN 0380706512.

Twentieth-Century Teen Culture By the Decades: A Reference Guide by Lucy Rollin. Greenwood Press, 1999. ISBN 0313302235.

Visual Timeline of the 20th Century by Simon Adams. Dorling Kindersley, 1996. ISBN 0789409976.

Nonprint

Kent State directed by James Goldstone. Universal Studios, 1998 (VHS Video). ASIN 6300185761.

Web Sites

- *American Architecture—Twentieth Century—1970–1979*, http://www.greatbuildings.com/types/usa/usa_1970-1979.html.
- *The Authentic History Center: Primary Sources from American Popular Culture, 1970s*, <http://www.authentichistory.com/1970s.html>. This interesting site tells stories of the period through audio clips and images from pop culture.
- *Film History of the 1970s*, <http://www.filmsite.org/70sintro.html>.
- *Iran Hostage Crisis*, <http://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h2021.html>.
- *Media History Timeline: The 1970s*, <http://www.mediahistory.umn.edu/time/1970s.html>. Very detailed chronology of noteworthy events.
- *A Science Odyssey: Then + Now*, <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aso/thenandnow>. A chronology with a focus on advances in science and technology.
- *Southern Music Network*, <http://www.southernmusic.net/1970.htm>. An interesting overview the decade's music.

The 1980s

- Student Guide
- Suggested Resources
- Events and Issues Timeline: America and the World
- Events and Issues Timeline: Family Life, Work, and School
- Events and Issues Timeline: Science and Technology
- Events and Issues Timeline: Key Social Issues
- Events and Issues Timeline: Arts, Sports, and Culture
- Supplemental Resources

Dynamic Decades: America in the 1980s

Student Guide

Dear Student,

Meet Emily Granger and George Reynolds. These fictional characters, whose lives exactly spanned the 20th century, will accompany you as you explore life in America in the 1980s. Emily is a woman of European ancestry, who grew up in a rural Alabama town. George is African American, and lived his life in the Chicago area. Born in 1900, both are in their eighties during the 1980s. Through letters, which you find later in this Student Guide, they will share bits of their stories and offer personal perspectives on events and issues of the period. As you study the 1980s, keep in mind how Emily and George might have felt about or been involved in the events and issues you encounter. Try to see things through their eyes, so that in your unit project you can reflect their experiences and perspectives.

In this unit, you will be part of a group, researching a particular aspect of the 1980s, sharing your findings with your group, and working cooperatively to plan and present a project that demonstrates in a creative way what you've learned. You may be asked to form, and defend, a personal position on a key event or issue of the decade.

The 1980s

The 1980s could be dubbed the Up and Down Decade. The drama and contrasting frivolity of the 70s gave way to more conservative forces. People sought prosperity through extreme dedication to careers. Computers revolutionized the workplace and increased expectations for worker productivity. Hippies became Yuppies—young urban professionals eager to climb the corporate ladder and enjoy the fruits of their efforts. Yuppies worked long hours; many couples chose to postpone children while they established two careers. Society applauded those with the drive to get ahead, and expected them to flaunt it. Credit was easy; consumer debt mushroomed. The physical demands of high-powered careers fueled the health and fitness craze, which was pursued with the same relentless determination evident in the workplace.

Reagan's approach to business and politics, dubbed "Reaganomics," favored big business, defense spending, flexing America's superpower muscles abroad, disinterest in environmental issues, drastic cuts in social programs, and tax cuts. By mid-decade inflation was down, but unemployment, interest rates, and land prices were up. The 1987 stock market crash rippled across the globe. Reagan himself rode the tide of ups and downs, with strong approval ratings and a landslide reelection, followed by deep public dismay over the Iran-Contra scandal.

Disasters, natural and otherwise, punctuated the decade. There was the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens and the 1989 San Francisco earthquake. The Exxon Valdez oil spill was a huge environmental disaster. The alarming spread of AIDS was also becoming apparent.

Youth culture, the darling of the middle of the century, receded from center stage. While MTV showcased pop celebrities and excesses of the punk, rap, and grunge movements, it also had an institutionalizing effect. Many of yesterday's rockers turned to New Age cultural expressions to

relieve the stresses of demanding careers and social lives. In new and bigger ways, young celebrities rallied behind compelling social causes, as “Live Aid” benefited Africa’s hungry and “Farm Aid” helped struggling American farmers.

As you study the 1980s, talk to your parents and grandparents. Their experiences may shed light on this period of recent history. Now let’s see what our two fictional characters have to say about life in the 1980s.



Emily Granger

Emily Maude (Grantham) Granger, born January 1, 1900; died December 31, 1999. Emily’s grandparents came to America from Germany in the 1880s. Her father was a U.S. Army Lieutenant and her mother a homemaker; Emily was the youngest of five children. Her family lived in the small coal mining town of Blocton, Alabama. Emily’s father died in France in 1918, fighting for the Allies in World War I. Emily graduated from the local high school and married her high school sweetheart, Joseph Granger, in 1919. The Grangers had four daughters. Emily was a homemaker until her husband died in 1942 while serving as a soldier in World War II. She went to work at a factory in Birmingham to support the war effort. Emily lost her job when the soldiers returned after the War. She lived out her life in Birmingham with her oldest daughter, enjoying a large family of children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great -great grandchildren.

George Reynolds

George Abraham Reynolds, born January 1, 1900; died December 31, 1999. George was African American, the son of a Pullman porter and a seamstress; the grandson of slaves. He had an older brother and a younger sister.

George was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. He graduated from the University of Chicago in 1922, and pursued a career as a newspaper reporter for a publication written for African Americans. George married Francine Norris in 1928. He and his wife had a son and two daughters. He retired in 1982; his wife died in 1988..



January 20, 1986

Dear Louisa,

Thank you for your lovely note and gift. It's a chilly day, so I'm wearing the sweater right now. I'm sorry, too, that you couldn't come to my birthday party. Please don't feel bad! There were already so many people making such a fuss, just because an old lady managed to stay alive for 85 years! It wore me out! Of course, I'm grateful to everyone who helped me celebrate. And it was wonderful to see so many people I love. But when you reach my age, you'll know that it's easier to enjoy one person at a time, over a nice cup of tea!

It's taking me a while to write my thank-yous. But I'm a proper Southern lady, and I'm determined to hand write them all! Whether anyone can read them is another question! No form letters from a computer for me! I'm writing several today, since the neighbor who works at the court house is off work today for the Martin Luther King holiday and said she'd run errands for me. I'll have her put my notes in the mail.

It sounds like you're working very hard at your job. I wonder when you and Howard have time for each other, or when you'll ever have time for children! I know your mother longs to be a grandma. I don't mean to scold. I'm glad you're doing so well. But I look around at the young people I know, and wonder if they're making time for what's important. A good job is a blessing. But it won't fill your heart like a mother's love will. Just a thought from your meddling great granny.

You wanted to hear about the party. It was quite an affair! You know your Great Aunt Laura—always organizing the most amazing things. She showed up in her minivan, and I thought she'd never finish unloading decorations and chairs and who knows what all! She outdid herself. There was food of all kinds. She even humored an old woman with lemonade in January, since I can't abide these sticky-sweet sodas. But the Diet Coke people made a killing, judging by all the empty bottles! Laura likes to use Paul Newman's products because they support charity. It tickles me that such a handsome movie star ended up in the food business!

Laura had things so planned out that there was hardly time for visiting! Everyone

played this new game, Trivial Pursuit. You'd think, having lived such a long time, that I'd know every detail from the last 85 years! But I guess I've forgotten a lot, because I couldn't answer many of the questions. The young folks did much better. Then there was the program. Crystal played the piano. Your little cousin Randall was all decked out in these Parachute Pants, and did something called break dancing. I'm afraid it just looked to me like he had biting ants in his skivvies, he flopped around and gyrated so! His brother and sister made up a "birthday rap" for me, which was cute, but I don't see how it can be called music! Finally, Stuart sang some sweet old songs that he knew were special to Joseph and me back in the old days, and then the whole gang sang "We Are the World," from the "Live Aid" concert last July. Now I'm afraid you will feel bad, to hear all you missed.

Time to go. Thanks again for the cozy sweater and kind words. I hope to see you soon.

*Love,
Great Grandma Granger*

October 10, 1988

Dear Peggy,

Thanks for checking in on your old man. I appreciate your concern, and I can't pretend that I don't have my down days since your mother died. But I'll be fine. We had sixty great years together! That's more than most people get, and I'm grateful for each one. Even last year, when she was so sick, we had some good times. She was a fine lady, and I was lucky to have her. I think what I miss most is having someone to talk to about what's going on in the world. She used to scold me for getting so worked up about things, but she always had good ideas, and was interested in everything, as I am.

I also appreciate your offer to take me in. But I think I'll stay put as long as I can. I'm set in my ways, and have things just the way I like them, other than being alone. I can't imagine trying to move my office, with all my books and papers spread around. I'm close enough to the newspaper office that I can drop in and use their library now and then. Retired or not, I seem to be welcome there. For now, this suits me best.

I've been reading a lot. Thanks for sending me *A Brief History of the Universe*. What I get from it is fascinating, but I suspect you sent it just to keep your old man busy—some of it is just beyond me. I've also taken to watching the Senate debate on TV. Some days it's deadly boring, but other days it keeps my blood pumping and my brain cells working.

Am I just getting old and cynical, that I get so disgusted with certain people and things, or have I earned the right not to "suffer fools lightly?" Between this whole disgraceful Iran-Contra mess and the scandals with the TV evangelists, on the one hand, and the simply foolish "Harmonic Convergence" gathering of these New Agers on the other, I do find myself wondering what this country's coming to. I've always disliked old people who bemoan progress and long for "good old days" that really weren't that good, and I do try to be fair and look at all sides of an issue—being a journalist taught me that. But some days it seems we are just headed in the wrong direction. What's your take on Reagan's seeming turn-around? After throwing our military might around all over the globe for the past 7 years, and taking such a

weak stand against apartheid in South Africa, at least now he's taken responsibility for the Iran-Contra affair, and is working with the USSR to destroy nuclear weapons. Has he turned over a new leaf? I'll wait and see. He probably can't help doing something I agree with now and then!

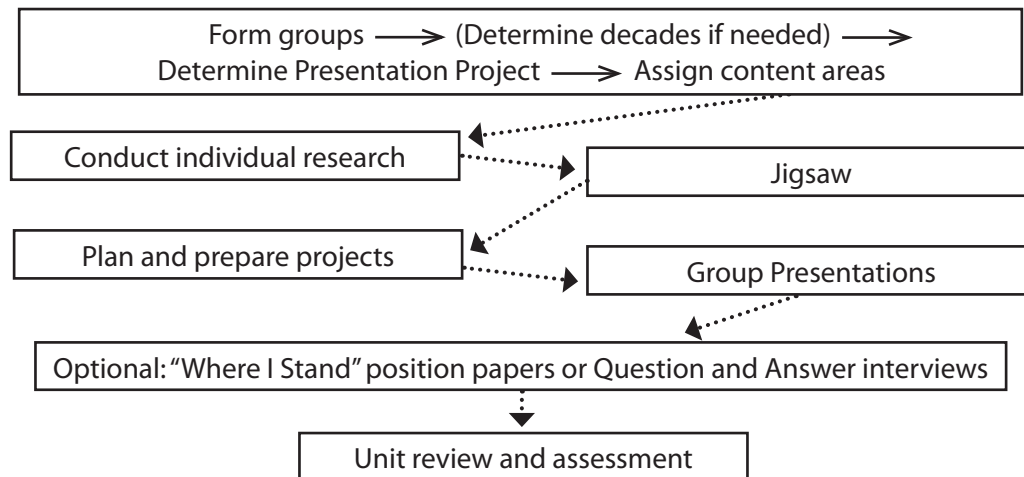
I'm sorrier than I can say about your friend with AIDS. It's a terrible disease and no one—I don't care who he is or how he lives—deserves it. Maybe now that they know what it is, they can find better treatments before it spreads totally out of control.

Whew! Guess I talked your ear off! Time to go work on my book. It would please your mother greatly if I were to actually finish the thing!

*Lots of love,
Dad*

Now that you've been introduced to Emily, George, and the 1980s, you're ready to begin. This section will take you through the project, step by step. Enjoy your exploration of this *Dynamic Decade*!

Here's an overview.



Steps to follow:

1. Form your group, determine the decade(s) you'll study, the project you will present, and when your presentation is due. Write the appropriate information on your *Dynamic Decades* Student Assignment Form. Optional presentation projects include:
 - Write, stage, costume, rehearse, and present an original "American Life in the 1980s" skit
 - Create, explain, read excerpts from, and display a "Decade in Review" newspaper
 - Create, explain, and demonstrate a "Fascinating Facts" quiz game
2. Which content area(s) will you research for your group? Write it or them on your *Dynamic Decades* Student Assignment Form.
 - America and the world
 - Family life, work, and school
 - Science and technology
 - Key social issues
 - Arts, sports, and culture
3. Use resources from the Suggested Resources list or others recommended by your teacher to research your content area(s). Follow the Big6 research process or another process explained by your teacher. Use the Research Worksheet to help you find, record, and organize information. Use your Chronology and Issues sheets to orient you to your decade(s) and as sources for specific events or items to investigate and incorporate in your group's project. NOTE: You will turn in your Research Worksheet and your notes, so keep them neat and readable!
4. Meet in Jigsaw groups with other specialists in your content area. Exchange ideas and take notes on your Research Worksheet or additional paper.
5. Check out new sources or ideas from your content specialist meeting.

6. Report on your content area to your original group.
7. Plan and prepare your presentation project, fine tuning and supplementing your individual research as needed for the project. Be sure to build all the requirements from your Project Guidelines sheet into your project. Be creative, and don't forget to include George's and Emily's viewpoints in your project.
8. Present your group's project to the class.
9. (Prepare and present your "Where I Stand" position paper or Question & Answer interview, if assigned.)
10. Participate in the unit review and turn in your worksheet and notes.

Dynamic Decades: 1980s

America and the World

1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
U.S. boycotts Olympics in Moscow to protest USSR invasion of Afghanistan	Iran releases U.S. embassy hostages		U.S. troops invade Grenada, oust Marxist government	Communist nations boycott Olympics in Los Angeles	"Live Aid" concert raises over \$50 million for starving Africans	Iran-Contra scandal hits headlines	Reagan, Gorbachev sign pact to destroy 2500 nuclear missiles	Reagan visits Moscow	U.S. troops invade Panama to capture Noriega
Reagan elected president	AIDS first identified		Reagan plans "Star Wars" weapons system	Reagan signs accords with China	French-U.S. team discovers <i>Titanic</i> ruins	U.S. planes bomb Libya	Worldwide stock market crash	George Bush elected president	U.S., Canada sign free trade agreement
Cuban refugees flood into U.S.	U.S. embassy in El Salvador attacked		241 U.S. soldiers die in Lebanon terrorist embassy bombing	NASA astronauts photograph another planetary system	Reagan calls for trade embargo against Nicaragua	U.S. troops help fight drug traffickers in Bolivia	Reagan refuses entry to immigrants, aliens with AIDS	U.S. accidentally shoots down Iranian airliner	Magellan probe launched to study Venus
	Reagan ends embargo on grain shipments to USSR				Reagan, Gorbachev hold superpower summit			U.S. surgeons implant first plutonium-powered pacemaker	
					CA scientists study black hole in our galaxy			Reagan broadcasts to Russia	
					World Court orders U.S. to stop mining, blockading Nicaragua ports			20 McDonalds restaurants open in Moscow	
					Reagan launches mild protest against South Africa's apartheid			Pan Am airliner blown up by terrorists over Scotland	
					U.S. journalist Terry Anderson kidnapped in Lebanon				

KEY ISSUES

- U.S. flexes its muscles as superpower, faces both respect and resentment on global scene
- Concern at home over frequent intervention in foreign affairs, dangers of "Star Wars" escalating arms race
- Relations with China, USSR warm
- Space exploration continues to inspire, drive global scientific and technical advances
- Advancing communications and transportation technology continue to "shrink" the world
- Growing concern over earth's environmental health and government disregard for environmental issues
- AIDS increasingly alarming
- "War on Drugs" reaches beyond U.S. borders
- Worldwide stock market crisis
- Celebrity activism for social causes at home and abroad
- Ongoing concern over dangers of nuclear power and weapons
- Sports increasingly politicized with boycotts of Olympics

Dynamic Decades: 1980s

Family Life, Work, and School

1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
3M introduces Post-It Notes	First IBM PC on sale	Equal Rights Amendment defeated	Cabbage Patch Kids in toy stores	First Macintosh computers on sale	"Farm Aid" concert benefits American farmers	GM pulls operations from South Africa to protest apartheid	Dow Jones Average tops 2000 for first time	20 McDonalds restaurants open in Moscow	\$700 billion bailout for savings and loan industry approved
Movie <i>Nine to Five</i> slams workplace conditions for women	Major league baseball players strike	Diet Coke introduced	Chrysler Company introduces minivans	<i>Newsweek</i> declares "Year of the Yuppie"	Controversy over IUD birth control device		"Black Monday" stock market crash		Time buys Warner, creates world's largest entertainment company
Banking industry deregulated	Air traffic controllers strike, Reagan fires them	Reagan deregulates savings and loan industry	Milken promotes use of "junk" bonds	HP introduces laptop computer	Record cold wave kills 40 people around U.S.		Bill Gates becomes computer industry's first billionaire		U.S. and Canada sign free trade agreement
Transformer toys hit market	Congress passes tax cuts	Justice Department breaks up phone giant AT&T	Paul Newman introduces line of food products to support charity	Trivial Pursuit hottest game in U.S. homes			Corporate buyout makes Beatrice Foods largest black-owned firm in U.S.		Nintendo launches Game Boy
Pac-Man introduced		Inflation drops, unemployment climbs		Land prices, interest rates soar, 43,000 farms go bankrupt			Snapple iced tea introduced		First woman Episcopal bishop in U.S.
Mt. St. Helens erupts, killing 57 in WA		Sales bottom out for Detroit auto makers							Earthquake kills 62 in San Francisco

KEY ISSUES

- Feminism makes gains, remains controversial in home, workplace
- Organized workers strike to improve conditions
- Personal computers continue to revolutionize workplaces, homes, and schools
- Many families have cable TV, VCRs
- Public trust damaged by scandals in government, "Moral Majority"
- Roller coaster economy effects everyone: Record national debt, unemployment, poverty levels; rising interest rates; lower inflation; tax cuts; increases in
- military spending, cuts in domestic/social spending; stock market highs and lows
 - Period of deregulation, bail-outs in various business sectors
 - Natural disasters cause hardship
 - Status-seeking, extravagant consumerism on the rise, increase in two-income families

Dynamic Decades: 1980s

Science and Technology

1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
3M introduces Post-It Notes	First IBM PC on sale	First artificial heart transplant	Reagan plans "Star Wars" weapons system	First Macintosh computers on sale	CA scientists study black hole in our galaxy	Space shuttle Challenger explodes, killing crew	Last wild California condor trapped for breeding	Federal law ends use of CFCs to help environment	Exxon Valdez accident creates catastrophic oil spill of Alaska
First solar-cell power plant dedicated	Reusable space shuttle Columbia makes successful flight	FDA first approves genetically engineered product—insulin from bacteria	Cell phones first available	HIV identified as cause of AIDS	CDs promise to make LPs obsolete	U.S., world back off nuclear power after Chernobyl disaster	AZT approved for treatment of AIDS	U.S. surgeons implant first plutonium-powered pacemaker	First use of DNA evidence in rape cases
Toxic shock syndrome linked to tampon use	AIDS first identified	Term "Internet" first used	Apple Computers introduces mouse	First human genes cloned, CA	Controversy over IUD birth control device		FDA approves possible AIDS vaccine	Stealth bomber unveiled	Magellan probe launched to study Venus
	U.S. pilot makes first solar-powered flight across English Channel			NASA astronauts photograph another planetary system				Hawking's <i>A Brief History of Time</i> published	
				HP introduces laptop computer				First Internet virus	

KEY ISSUES

- Advancing communications and transportation technology continue to "shrink" the world
- Space exploration continues to inspire, drive global scientific and technical advances
- Growing concern over earth's environmental health and government disregard for environmental issues
- AIDS increasingly alarming
- Ongoing concern over dangers of nuclear power and weapons
- Concern over dangers of "Star Wars" escalating arms race
- Personal computers continue to revolutionize workplaces, homes, and schools

Dynamic Decades: 1980s

Key Social Issues

1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Mount St. Helens erupts, killing 57 in WA	Iran releases U.S. embassy hostages	Equal Rights Amendment defeated	Sally Ride first American woman to travel in space	Ferraro first woman nominated for Vice President	Record cold wave kills 40 people around U.S.	First ML King Day observed	Reagan, Gorbachev sign pact to destroy 2500 nuclear missiles	George H.W. Bush elected president	Exxon Valdez accident creates catastrophic oil spill of Alaska
Reagan elected president	Hinckley tries to assassinate Reagan	Justice Department breaks up phone giant AT&T	U.S. troops invade Grenada, oust Marxist government	Reagan reelected in landslide	Reagan launches mild protest against South Africa's apartheid	Iran-Contra scandal hits headlines	Iran-Contra hearings in House, Senate	Federal law ends use of CFCs to help environment	Colin Powell first African American chair of Joint Chiefs of Staff
227+ million people in U.S.	O'Connor first woman on Supreme Court	Largest protest against nuclear weapons in history, NYC	Nancy Reagan launches "Just Say No" antidrug campaign	First woman astronaut walks in space	Families boycott when HIV positive child allowed into NYC school	First broadcast of live Senate debates	Dow Jones Average tops 2000 for first time	Drug lord Carlos Lehder sentenced to life in prison, FL	Earthquake kills 62 in San Francisco
First woman graduates from West Point	AIDS first identified	Reagan deregulates savings & loan industry	Reagan plans "Star Wars" weapons system	Land prices, interest rates soar, 43,000 farms go bankrupt	"Farm Aid" concert benefits American farmers	GM pulls operations from South Africa to protest apartheid	"Black Monday" stock market crash	Cabinet-level "Drug Czar" role created	U.S. troops invade Panama to capture Noriega
Cuban refugees flood into U.S.	National debt tops \$1 trillion	Inflation drops, unemployment climbs	Secretary of Interior Watt resigns in disgrace			Justice Department launches campaign against pornography	Last wild California condor trapped for breeding	Controversy over movie <i>The Last Temptation of Christ</i>	\$700 billion bail-out for savings & loan industry approved
"Washington for Jesus" rally in Washington DC	Congress passes tax cuts	Reagan spends big on military, small on domestic programs	Vanessa Williams first black Miss America, then loses title			"Hands Across America" fights hunger, poverty	PTL's Jim Bakker scandal shocks public	Jimmy Swaggart scandal deepens PTL's troubles	First use of DNA evidence in rape cases
Florida race riots leave 14 dead	Reagan authorizes domestic spying by CIA	Poisoned Tylenol kills 7; "safety seal" packaging introduced	Gay and lesbians protest "sensationalization of AIDS"			Nancy Lieberman first woman to play men's pro basketball	Reagan takes responsibility for Iran-Contra scandal	Pan Am airliner blown up by terrorists over Scotland	Supreme Court says flag burning legal
Carter authorizes military draft registration for men 18-20		Vietnam Veterans Memorial dedicated in D.C.	AIDS called #1 priority by U.S. Public Health Service						Dept. of Health supports providing needles to drug users to slow AIDS

KEY ISSUES

- Continuing struggle for civil, minority rights; gains especially for women
- Public trust damaged by scandals in government, "Moral Majority"
- Growing concern over government disregard for environmental issues
- Roller coaster economy: Record national debt, unemployment, poverty levels; rising interest rates; lower inflation; tax cuts; increases in military spending, cuts in domestic/social spending; stock market highs and lows
- "War on Drugs" proclaimed
- AIDS increasingly alarming
- Period of deregulation, bailouts in various business sectors
- Concern over frequent intervention in foreign affairs, dangers of "Star Wars" escalating arms race
- Celebrity activism for social causes
- Ongoing concern over dangers of nuclear power and weapons
- Natural disasters cause hardship
- Personal computers continue to revolutionize workplaces, homes, and schools
- Status-seeking, extravagant consumerism on the rise; increase in two-income families

Dynamic Decades: 1980s

Arts, Sports, and Culture

1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
U.S. boycotts Olympics in Moscow to protest USSR invasion of Afghanistan	MTV premieres	Diet Coke introduced	Cell phones first available	Communist nations boycott Olympics in Los Angeles	"Live Aid" concert raises over \$50 million for starving Africans	Clint Eastwood elected mayor of CA town	<i>Fatal Attraction</i> , <i>China Syndrome</i> , <i>Dirty Dancing</i> hot in theaters	Controversy over movie <i>Last Temptation of Christ</i>	Pete Rose banned from baseball for gambling on games
John Lennon murdered	Major league baseball players strike	NFL players go on strike	Cabbage Patch Kids dolls in toy stores	<i>Cosby Show</i> , <i>Miami Vice</i> , <i>Murder She Wrote</i> hit TV	Madonna's "Material Girl" symbolizes culture	<i>Top Gun</i> , <i>Alien</i> , <i>Ferris Bueller's Day Off</i> , <i>Platoon</i> hot movies	Grateful Dead break into Top Ten with "Touch of Grey"	Popular movies: <i>Big</i> , <i>Rain Man</i> , <i>Who Framed Roger Rabbit</i>	Hit movies: <i>Do the Right Thing</i> , <i>When Harry Met Sally</i> , <i>Little Mermaid</i>
Roller blades become popular	<i>Raiders of the Lost Ark</i> hits theaters	Movie <i>ET</i> hits theaters	U.S. loses America's Cup yacht racing trophy to Australians	Michael Jackson wins 8 Grammys for <i>Thriller</i>	"Farm Aid" concert benefits American farmers	Mike Tyson wins heavyweight title	<i>Married with Children</i> , <i>21 Jump Street</i> , <i>Thirtysomething</i> TV hits	53% of Americans have cable TV, 56% own VCRs	Oprah is queen of the talk show
Rubik's Cube hits market	Prime time TV soap operas popular	Leader of "Moonies" cult convicted of tax evasion	Mr. T debuts in <i>The A Team</i> on TV	<i>Newsweek</i> declares "Year of the Yuppie"	"Crack" hits NY streets	Robert Penn Warren first U.S. poet laureate	New Agers gather for Harmonic Convergence	Hulk Hogan "rules" TV wrestling	Nintendo launches Game Boy
Pac-Man introduced	"Power dressing" in for Yuppies	EPCOT opens at Disney World	Spuds McKenzie promotes Bud Light beer	Prince's <i>Purple Rain</i> released	Michael Jordan is NBA Rookie of the Year	LeMond first American to win Tour de France		Super Mario II, Tetris hot video games	Gretzky becomes NHL's all-time record scorer
Mary Decker first woman to run mile in under 4.5 minutes	Sport shoes move from playing field to fashion	<i>Cats</i> opens on Broadway	<i>Return of the Jedi</i> takes in record \$6.2 million first day	Nike introduces "Air Jordan" basketball shoes	"Brat Pack" young actors rise to fame	<i>Phantom of the Opera</i> debuts		Hawking's <i>A Brief History of Time</i> published	
Movie <i>Nine to Five</i> slams workplace conditions for women	<i>Late Night with David Letterman</i> an instant hit	<i>Late Night with David Letterman</i> an instant hit	<i>A Chorus Line</i> becomes longest-running Broadway show	Big movies: <i>Beverly Hills Cop</i> , <i>Footloose</i> , <i>Terminator</i> , <i>Karate Kid</i> , <i>16 Candles</i>	CDs promise to make LPs obsolete	Dollywood opens in TN			
CNN debuts on TV		<i>Cheers</i> debuts on TV		Breakdancing craze building	LL Cool J is rap's new superstar	Nancy Lieberman first woman to play men's pro basketball			

KEY ISSUES

- Yesterday's hippies are today's yuppies
- Cable TV, VCRs, personal computers mean challenges for network TV, movie theaters
- Music videos burst on the scene
- Punk, rap and breakdancing emerge
- Health and fitness craze sweeps the nation
- Arts and culture reflect both social issues and lighthearted escapism
- Science fiction, action, and horror movies grow in popularity
- TV talk shows find their niche
- Public trust damaged by scandals in government, "Moral Majority"
- Celebrity activism for social causes
- Sports increasingly politicized with boycotts of Olympics

Suggested Resources

Print

1980s by Kris Hirschmann (American History by Decade series). KidHaven Press, 2003. ISBN 0737717505.

The 1980s by Gail Stewart (A Cultural History of the United States through the Decades series). Lucent Books, 1998. ISBN 1560065583.

The 1980s by Clint Twist (Take Ten Years series). Evans Brothers, Limited, 1996. ISBN 0237516837.

The 1980s: From Ronald Reagan to MTV by Stephen Feinstein (Decades of the 20th Century series). Enslow, 2006. ISBN 0766026388.

The 80s by Dan Epstein (20th Century Pop Culture series). Chelsea House, 2000. ISBN 0791060888.

All the People 1945–2001 by Joy Hakim (A History of Us series, Volume 10). Oxford University Press, 2002. ISBN 0195153383.

Bowling, Beatniks, and Bell-Bottoms: Pop Culture of 20th Century America edited by Sara Pendergast and Tom Pendergast. Thomson Gale, 2002 (Volume 5). ISBN 0787656801.

The Century for Young People by Peter Jennings, Todd Brewster, and Jennifer Armstrong. Doubleday Books for Young Readers, 1999. ISBN 0385328080.

The Changing Face of American Society 1945–2000 by Christopher Collier and James Lincoln Collier (The Drama of American History series). Benchmark Books, 2002. ISBN 0881413198.

A Dream of Freedom: The Civil Rights Movement from 1954 to 1988 by Diane McWhorter. Scholastic Nonfiction, 2004. ISBN 0439588884.

The Eighties by Adrian Gilbert (Look at Life In series). Raintree, 2000. ISBN 0739813412.

Fashions of a Decade—the 1980s by Bailey Publishing Associates and Vicky Carnegy (Fashions of a Decade series). Chelsea House, 2006. ISBN 0816067244.

The Great Society to the Reagan Era: 1964–1990 by William Loren Katz (A History of Multicultural America series). Steck-Vaughn, 1996. ISBN 0811429388.

The Middle Road: American Politics 1945–2000 by Christopher Collier and James Lincoln Collier (The Drama of American History series). Benchmark Books, 2002. ISBN 0881413189.

Oxford Children's Book of the 20th Century: A Concise Guide to a Century of Contrast and Change by Stewart Ross. Oxford University Press, 1999. ISBN 0195214889.

The Reagan Years by Darv Johnson (World History series). Thomson Gale, 1999. ISBN 1560065923.

UXL American Decades—1980–1989 by Tom and Sara Pendergast & Rob Nagel. UXL, 2002. ISBN 0787664634.

Nonprint

Casey Kasem: America's Top 10: The 80s Rick's Greatest Hits by various artists. Top Sail Productions, 2001 (Music CD). UPC: 805667190329. This CD presents 20 top rock & roll hits of the decade performed by the original artists.

Mr. Holland's Opus directed by Stephen Herek. Walt Disney Video, 1999. UPC: 717951003096. Spanning several decades, this evocative movie highlights the murder of John Lennon as a turning point in high school music teacher Mr. Holland's relationship with his deaf son.

Web Sites

- *American Cultural History: 1980–1989*, <http://kclibrary.nhmccd.edu/decade80.html>.
- *AmericanPresident.org*, <http://www.americanpresident.org/history>. Check out biographies of Presidents Carter and Reagan.
- *AT&T Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Museum*, <http://www.rockhall.com/home/default.asp>. Check out the 1980s entries in the "Today in Rock History" section, under the Liner Notes tab.
- *Greatest Space Events of the 20th Century: The 80s*, http://www.space.com/news/spacehistory/yir_greatest_1980s_000103.html.
- *The Reagan/Bush Iran-Contra Scandal*, <http://social.chass.ncsu.edu/slatta/hi216/documents/contras.htm>.
- *Twentieth Century Inventions 1900–1999*, <http://inventors.about.com/library/weekly/aa010500a.htm>. Year by year highlights with links to further information.
- *WWW-VL: History: USA: 1980–1989*, <http://vlib.iue.it/history/USA/ERAS/20TH/1980s.html>. An umbrella site offering many links arranged in the form of an outline of the decade.

Supplemental Resources

Fiction

The 1980s: Arguments by Dorothy and Tom Hoobler. The Millbrook Press, 2002. ISBN 0761316086. This title in the series about two related families throughout the 20th century features a group of young cousins and friends as they work to stop a greedy company from polluting the local lake, and follow in the footsteps of their celebrity parents to form a rock band.

The Center of Everything by Laura Moriarty. Hyperion, 2004. ISBN 0786888458. Evelyn struggles to navigate the choppy waters of adolescence, surrounded by her immature young single mother, her Bible-thumping grandmother, a lovestruck best friend, and well-intentioned teachers in Reagan-era Kansas.

A Day for Vincent Chin and Me by Jacqueline Turner Banks. Houghton Mifflin Company, 2005. ISBN 0618548793. Tommy is embarrassed when his mother agrees to speak at a rally supporting Asian Americans rights. But while he's shy about his Japanese background, he and his friends find their own causes to champion. The title refers to the Chinese American victim of a racist murder in Detroit in 1982.

Dry Bones by Hope Norman Coulter. Random House, 1994. ISBN 0517130203. A mysterious fossilized bone is at the center of this complex story about a legal debate between evolutionists and creationists in Arkansas in 1981. From the adult fiction shelves, this is a fascinating, challenging read, with some offensive language and mature content.

Future on Ice edited by Orson Scott Card. Tor Books, 2000. ISBN 0312872968. While not necessarily set in the 1980s, the eighteen stories in this collection represent many of the best science fiction writers of the decade and illuminate many concerns and social issues important at the time.

The Headmaster's Papers by Richard Hawley. Paul S. Eriksson, 2002. ISBN 0839731949. In this warm, sophisticated, prize-winning story, John Greeve, who has been headmaster of a Connecticut boarding school for 30 years, faces baffling new challenges to his personal values and the integrity of his school as the 80s begin.

The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan. Knopf Publishing Group, 1991. ISBN 067972768X. Forty years after four Chinese immigrant women joined forces to share mahjong and support, June finds herself taking her dead mother's place in the group and coming to a new appreciation of her family and heritage. A rich, rewarding read for strong readers.

Keeping the Moon by Sarah Dessen. Puffin, 2004. ISBN 0142401765. Fifteen-year-old Colie, visiting her quirky aunt while her fitness diva mom tours Europe, has shed some pounds but not the self-doubt that went with being overweight. She spends the summer waitressing at a café and blossoming in the acceptance and wisdom of various mentors.

Klepto by Jenny Pollack. Penguin Young Readers Group, 2006. ISBN 0670060615. This first person narrative follows Julie's emotionally charged first year at a New York City high school for performing arts, as she experiences new friendships, first love, the frustrations of preoccupied and battling parents, and the exhilaration—followed by the guilt—of shoplifting. Some strong language.

A Long Way Home by Nancy Price Graff. Houghton Mifflin, 2001. ISBN 0618120424. Riley hates moving from New York City to a tiny Vermont town with his widowed mother. But the unwelcome intimacy of small-town life holds important lessons, as Riley encounters the mixed legacy of the Vietnam War in the lives of those around him, and learns surprising truths about suffering and courage.

Lost in the War by Nancy Antle. Penguin Group, 2000. ISBN 0141308362. This quick read packs an emotional punch as it shares one family's experiences of grief and loss after from the Vietnam War. A trip to the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial becomes a moving focus for healing.

Night of the Twisters by Ivy Ruckman. HarperCollins Children's Books, 1986. ISBN 0064401766. This fictionalized account of the freakish tornadoes that devastated Grand Island, Nebraska in 1980 follows Dan and his friend Arthur as they fight their way through terror to save themselves and find their families and neighbors.

Nobody Was Here: Seventh Grade in the Life of Me, Penelope by Alison Pollet. Scholastic, Inc., 2005. ISBN 0439583950. This chatty story about the stresses of life at a prestigious New York prep school in 1981 is steeped in adolescent angst and period detail.

The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place by E. L. Konigsburg. Aladdin, 2005. ISBN 0689866372. When Margaret Rose "prefers not to" fit in at summer camp she is rescued by her eccentric great uncles and taken to their home on Schuyler Place. But the summer takes an unexpected turn when the sculpture towers her uncles created become the center of a controversy that touches on the value of art, historic preservation, urban renewal, and local politics.

Park's Quest by Katherine Paterson. Penguin Young Readers Group, 1989. ISBN 0140342621. When Park goes in search of the truth about his father, who died in Vietnam, he finds more than he bargained for. Winning characters and effective period detail add heart and substance to this compelling story.

Pepperland by Mark Delaney. Peachtree Publishers, 2007. ISBN 1561454028. Beatles song titles introduce each chapter in this story about Star, a teen struggling with grief over her mother's death. Delaney creates believable, relatable characters in Star, her biker father, and her artistic friend Dooley, who is a victim of homophobic bullies at school.

Petty Crimes by Gary Soto. Harcourt Children's Books, 1998. ISBN 0152016589. This collection of short stories depicts life for young Hispanics in a poor, struggling neighborhood. Soto deftly gives voice to engaging characters expressing harsh realities without self-pity or despair.

The Possibility of Fireflies by Dominique Paul. Language. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, 2006. ISBN 1416913106. Ellie is 14; life has dealt her a lousy hand. Her father's gone. Her mother is "on vacation from parenting" to indulge her taste for liquor and men. Her sister is spinning out of control, and Ellie just wants to escape. Raw, harsh, and sometimes frightening, this novel is ultimately about hope and encouragement to find your own strength.

Quake! A Novel by Joe Cottonwood. Scholastic, 1996. ISBN 0590222333. The author lived through the 1989 earthquake, and tells the story from the viewpoint of 14-year-old Fran, who must work with her brother and visiting friend to survive and aid neighbors through the quake while their parents are off at a World Series game that didn't happen.

Volcano Disaster by Peg Kehret. Aladdin, 1998. ISBN 0671009680. Warren Spalding travels back in time, through his grandfather's invention, the "Instant Commuter," to Washington State just before the deadly eruption of Mount St. Helens in 1980. The combination of detailed description of volcanic action and fantasy is entertaining.

Nonfiction

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill by Elspeth Leacock. Facts on File, 2005. ISBN 0816057540.

Finders Keepers: The Story of a Man Who Found \$1 Million by Mark Bowden. Grove Press, 2003. ISBN 0802140211.

Life: Our Century in Pictures for Young People, edited by Richard B. Stolley. Little, Brown and Company, 2000. ISBN 0316815896.

Our American Century: Events that Shaped the Century by the editors of Time-Life Books. Time-Life, 1998. ISBN 0883555024.

Mount St. Helens Volcano: Violent Eruption by Carmen Bredeson (American Disasters series). Enslow Publishers, 2001. ISBN 0766015521.

Rambo Reagan: Over 1,400 Mind-Bending Trivia Questions about the '80s by David Arenson and Marilyn Werden. NTC Publishing Group, 1996. ISBN: 0809232251.

The Space Shuttle Challenger Disaster in American History by Suzanne Lieurance (In American History series). Enslow Publishers, 2001. ISBN 0766014193.

Twentieth-Century Teen Culture by the Decades: A Reference Guide by Lucy Rollin. Greenwood Press, 1999. ISBN 0313302235.

Visual Timeline of the 20th Century by Simon Adams. Dorling Kindersley, 1996. ISBN 0889409986.

Nonprint

A Briefer History of Time by Stephen Hawking, read by Erik Davies. Random House Audio Publishing Group, 2005 (Audio Book CD). ISBN 0739323687.

Money for Nothing directed by Ramón Menéndez. Walt Disney Video, 1993 (DVD). ASIN: B00008L3UU. A movie adaptation of the true story told in *Finders Keepers* (listed above).

Web Sites

- *American Architecture—Twentieth Century—1980–1989*, http://www.greatbuildings.com/types/usa/usa_1980-1989.html.
- *The Authentic History Center: Primary Sources from American Popular Culture, 1980s*, <http://www.authentichistory.com/1980s.html>. This interesting site tells stories of the period through audio clips and images from pop culture. Check out The Iran-Contra Scandal Trading Cards section.
- *Film History of the 1980s*, <http://www.filmsite.org/80sintro.html>.
- *Media History Timeline: The 1980s*, <http://www.mediahistory.umn.edu/time/1980s.html>. Very detailed chronology of noteworthy events.
- *A Science Odyssey: Then + Now*, <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aso/thenandnow>. A chronology with a focus on advances in science and technology.
- *Southern Music Network*, <http://www.southernmusic.net/1980.htm>. An interesting overview the decade's music.

The 1990s

- Student Guide
- Suggested Resources
- Events and Issues Timeline: America and the World
- Events and Issues Timeline: Family Life, Work, and School
- Events and Issues Timeline: Science and Technology
- Events and Issues Timeline: Key Social Issues
- Events and Issues Timeline: Arts, Sports, and Culture
- Supplemental Resources

Dynamic Decades: America in the 1990s

Student Guide

Dear Student,

Meet Emily Granger and George Reynolds. These fictional characters, whose lives exactly spanned the 20th century, will accompany you as you explore life in America in the 1990s. Emily is a woman of European ancestry, who grew up in a rural Alabama town. George is African American, and lived his life in the Chicago area. Born in 1900, both are in their nineties during the 1990s. Through letters, which you find later in this Student Guide, they will share bits of their stories and offer personal perspectives on events and issues of the period. As you study the 1990s, keep in mind how Emily and George might have felt about or been involved in the events and issues you encounter. Try to see things through their eyes, so that in your unit project you can reflect their experiences and perspectives.

In this unit, you will be part of a group, researching a particular aspect of the 1990s, sharing your findings with your group, and working cooperatively to plan and present a project that demonstrates in a creative way what you've learned. You may be asked to form, and defend, a personal position on a key event or issue of the decade.

The 1990s

The 1990s were "The Digital Decade." Computers were everywhere, revolutionizing communication, travel, business, consumer habits, entertainment, homemaking, education, politics, and warfare. The decade opened with high post-Cold War hopes for peace and prosperity.

Some of those hopes were realized. The economy boomed. Average citizens had access to the Internet, e-mail, and cell phones. Dealers sold "smart" cars, "smart" refrigerators—almost everything was "new and improved" by digital technology, and you could buy almost anything online. Web-based businesses sprang up, offering every imaginable product or service. The possibilities seemed endless; globalization was here.

But the Internet revolution brought problems, too. Information security issues—corporate espionage, intellectual property rights, identity theft—became huge concerns. Some claimed that technology designed to bring us together was also isolating us at our keyboards in our homes.

The hope for peace evaporated as we became embroiled in the Gulf War. As the sole superpower, the U.S. saw itself as the world's policeman. International terrorism, and fear of nuclear aggression by "rogue" states grew. More disturbingly, Americans faced homegrown violence in the Oklahoma City Bombing, the Unabomber, and a series of deadly school shootings. Time-honored institutions came under fire with the police beating of Rodney King and the FBI storming of the Branch Davidian Compound at Waco, Texas. Scandal hit the White House again, as Clinton was impeached, but not removed from office, over the Monica Lewinsky debacle. The decade ended with the country in a rare political divide—A Democratic President with a Republican-controlled Congress.

Again, the battle for justice and equal rights for women and minorities advanced "two steps

forward, one step back.” Women increasingly held positions of power; public tolerance of sexual harassment plummeted. The needs of disabled Americans were addressed as never before. Gays and lesbians won important legal victories that expanded their rights.

What do you remember from the 90s? Talk to your parents about the highlights, and the excitement—and ultimately needless fear of a Y2K global computer disaster—with which we approached the dawn of a new millennium.



Emily Granger

Emily Maude (Grantham) Granger, born January 1, 1900; died December 31, 1999. Emily’s grandparents came to America from Germany in the 1880s. Her father was a U.S. Army Lieutenant and her mother a homemaker; Emily was the youngest of five children. Her family lived in the small coal mining town of Blocton, Alabama. Emily’s father died in France in 1918, fighting for the Allies in World War I. Emily graduated from the local high school and married her high school sweetheart, Joseph Granger, in 1919. The Grangers had four daughters. Emily was a homemaker until her husband died in 1942 while serving as a soldier in World War II. She went to work at a factory in Birmingham to support the war effort. Emily lost her job when the soldiers returned after the War. She lived out her life in Birmingham with her oldest daughter, enjoying a large family of children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren.

George Reynolds

George Abraham Reynolds, born January 1, 1900; died December 31, 1999. George was African American, the son of a Pullman porter and a seamstress; the grandson of slaves. He had an older brother and a younger sister. George was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. He graduated from the University of Chicago in 1922, and pursued a career as a newspaper reporter for a publication written for African Americans. George married Francine Norris in 1928. He and his wife had a son and two daughters. He retired in 1982; his wife died in 1988..



June 14, 1993

Dear Gerald Junior,

There! I've compromised. I agree it seems strange to call a 45-year-old man "Junior," but you know you'll always be "junior" in my mind! You are good to write so often. I've given in and asked a sweet young volunteer to help me write back to you, since neither my eyes nor my hands work as well as they used to. So while the handwriting may be strange, at least you'll be able to read it!

I get tired just hearing about all your activities! Some of your news makes me uneasy, having lived so long with the men I loved considering it their duty to obey their country's call and do their duty in the military. But I respect you just the same, and I'm proud of you. I can understand, after all you went through in Vietnam, why you might feel differently about that duty. The whole Tailhook mess a couple of years ago made me really wonder what's happened to the armed services. Soldiers in your Great-grandfather's day and your Grandfather's day would never have acted with such dishonor, I'm sure. I understand your worries about our interfering in another country just because we want their oil. But it seems to me there's more to it than that. This Saddam Hussein is a dictator who invaded another country. If we don't stand up against him, who will? I'm afraid it's all a little beyond me. So hard to know what's right. But I know some things—I know you have a good heart, and that you've earned the right, the hard way, to your opinion. I'm proud of you for standing up for what you believe. Just try not to get into too much trouble with your protests and letters!

I don't get out much these days. I just get too tired and it always seems like so much fuss. But the folks here are nice. Your dad and sister and some of the other relatives visit quite often. I keep busy enough. I don't see well enough to watch much TV. But I listen to music and I like the books on tape that I get from the library. They bring them right to me in my room, once a month. Such service! After hearing all the fuss about that new book, Bridges of Madison County, I finally listened to it last week. I was rather disgusted to find that people are so crazy about a simple story about adultery! Call me old-fashioned, but I sometimes wonder what's happening to good old moral values! My next door neighbor here was just at her great grandson's high school graduation, and reported that there were no prayers in the ceremony

because the Supreme Court said it's against the Constitution! Can you imagine that? By the way, it took me a while to get used to the CD player you sent me, but you're right—it is easier to get right to my favorite songs than on my cassette player. Thank you again.

Well, dear boy, I'm getting tired and my young friend here has writer's cramp, I'm sure. Know that I love you and pray for you every day (I hope that's not against the Constitution!). Just between us, I feel closest to you of all the grandchildren. I guess that's because of all we've gone through together during the years you were growing up and then after you came home from Vietnam. I appreciate that you never seem to be too busy to write or call. It means a lot to an old woman!

*Hugs and kisses,
Grandma Granger*

August 22, 1996

Dear Vivian,

I'm so sorry to hear of your great niece's death. You've had a rough year, haven't you? First losing Reg, and now this. Who'd have guessed, back when AIDS was thought of as the scourge of homosexuals and drug users, that a nice married woman like Marilee would be at risk? It's a terrible thing.

I hope you don't mind getting my letter on tape. I've been doing this for a while. I'm in good enough health, overall, but it's just too frustrating to try to write a readable script with these trembly hands. Your writing is, I notice, beautiful as ever. I've decided that women age more gracefully than men—or at least than this impatient old coot!

Of course, it's nothing compared to you, but I really miss Reg. We could always work each other up into a lather about something going on in the world! It helped keep us from getting old before our time, I think. I wonder what he'd have thought about the Hubble pictures of star birth—what a thrill! Or about using genetically altered bugs to help the strawberries in Florida. I bet he'd have something to say about that! Ah, Vivian, we were both so lucky with our spouses. Kids, too. Since I finally gave in and moved in with Peggy's family, it's gone well. I try not to get in their way, and they tolerate me and make me feel welcome. Keep your independence as long as you can. But if the time comes, I wouldn't warn you against taking your son up on his offer to share their home. I'm surprised to hear myself say that!

Are you getting around much? Be grateful you can still do it on your own two feet! Since my fall, I'm in a wheelchair most of the time. I'm afraid my dancing days are over! It doesn't slow me down too much, though. In fact, last week I got in trouble with Peg for racing down the hall with my great granddaughter in tow! Kinsey thought it was great, but Peggy wonders if I'll ever grow up! When the Americans with Disabilities Act passed in '91, I didn't pay much attention. But now that I'm confined to wheels, I notice how much easier it is to get around than it would have been a decade or two ago. Nearly every place I go has ramps, wide doorways and elevators. I'm not too proud to admit that it's a blessing.

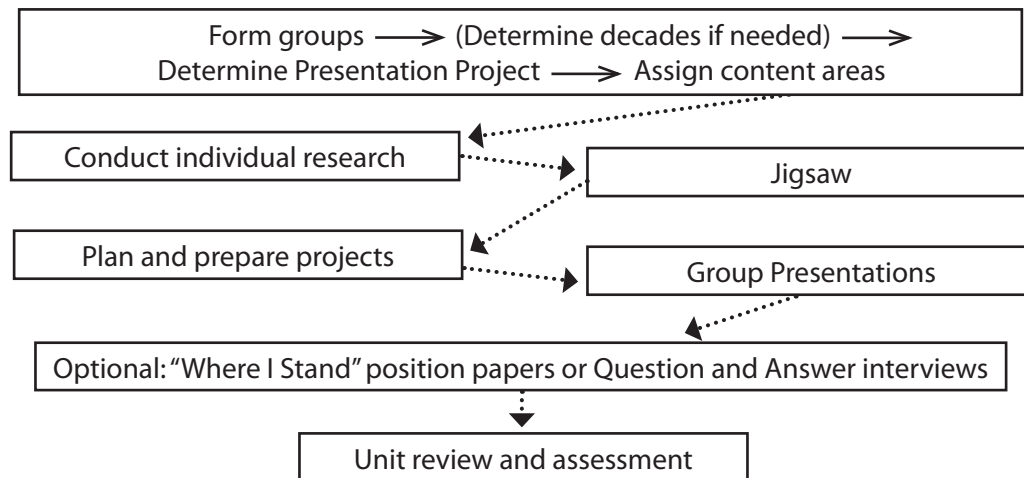
Do your grandkids have you using your computer more these days? We could e-mail back and forth, if you like. And don't tell me you're too old! I'm eight years older than you, and I do just fine. Of course, I had the advantage of growing up with computers at the newspaper, and having to do research online before the World Wide Web and Netscape Navigator made it so much easier. Still, it's a trade-off, like everything else. Now there's so much information at the tip of your fingers, but it's hard to know what to trust. Any idiot with a computer can say anything he darn well pleases, and pass it off as fact. Guess that's the journalist in me, always questioning sources! Speaking of computers, I understand Congress has gotten on the "Y2K" panic bandwagon, and is studying on whether the world is going to come to a standstill at the turn of the millennium! Seems like a tempest in a teapot, to me. Still, it's an interesting question. Do you suppose I'll be around to see what really happens?

I've gone on long enough. I find it's easier to ramble on tape than in writing! Write back soon, or better yet, send an e-mail. And try not to be too sad about Reg. I keep the hope that we'll both share another dance with our sweethearts when we pass on!

*Talk to you soon,
George*

Now that you've been introduced to Emily, George, and the 1990s, you're ready to begin. This section will take you through the project, step by step. Enjoy your exploration of this *Dynamic Decade*!

Here's an overview.



Steps to follow:

1. Form your group, determine the decade(s) you'll study, the project you will present, and when your presentation is due. Write the appropriate information on your *Dynamic Decades* Student Assignment Form. Optional presentation projects include:
 - Write, stage, costume, rehearse, and present an original "American Life in the 1990s" skit
 - Create, explain, read excerpts from, and display a "Decade in Review" newspaper
 - Create, explain, and demonstrate a "Fascinating Facts" quiz game
2. Which content area(s) will you research for your group? Write it or them on your *Dynamic Decades* Student Assignment Form.
 - America and the world
 - Family life, work, and school
 - Science and technology
 - Key social issues
 - Arts, sports, and culture
3. Use resources from the Suggested Resources list or others recommended by your teacher to research your content area(s). Follow the Big6 research process or another process explained by your teacher. Use the Research Worksheet to help you find, record, and organize information. Use your Chronology and Issues sheets to orient you to your decade(s) and as sources for specific events or items to investigate and incorporate in your group's project. NOTE: You will turn in your Research Worksheet and your notes, so keep them neat and readable!
4. Meet in Jigsaw groups with other specialists in your content area. Exchange ideas and take notes on your Research Worksheet or additional paper.
5. Check out new sources or ideas from your content specialist meeting.

6. Report on your content area to your original group.
7. Plan and prepare your presentation project, fine tuning and supplementing your individual research as needed for the project. Be sure to build all the requirements from your Project Guidelines sheet into your project. Be creative, and don't forget to include George's and Emily's viewpoints in your project.
8. Present your group's project to the class.
9. (Prepare and present your "Where I Stand" position paper or Question & Answer interview, if assigned.)
10. Participate in the unit review and turn in your worksheet and notes.

Dynamic Decades: 1990s

America and the World

1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Operation Desert Shield commences	U.S., allies defeat Iraq in Operation Desert Storm	Clinton elected President	Terrorists explode bomb in World Trade Center, NYC	NAFTA takes effect	U.S. sends \$20 billion in financial aid to Mexico	Bombing in Saudi Arabia kills 19 U.S. soldiers	IBM computer beats world champ Kasparov in chess	Terrorists bomb U.S. embassies in Kenya, Tanzania	NATO bombs Serbia to halt action in Kosovo
20th anniversary of Earth Day celebrated worldwide	Bush, Gorbachev sign nuclear arms reduction treaty	First non-U.S. team wins World Series	First concerns about Y2K computer problems	U.S., North Korea agree to freeze NK's nuclear program	Hubble Telescope thrills world with photos of "star birth"	Clinton reelected	U.S. refuses to sign "Kyoto Protocol" to control pollution	Exxon buys Mobil to form largest corporation in world	Tori Murden first American, woman to row across Atlantic
	Breakup of Soviet Union leaves U.S. lone superpower	U.S. troops deliver humanitarian aid to Somalia	Israel, PLO sign treaty at White House	U.S., allies announce embargo against Iran	U.S., China reduce trade barriers	Summer Olympics in GA (U.S.)	Crisis over Iraq expelling UN arms inspectors	First parts of International Space Station in place	Y2K computer concerns mount
	World Wide Web developed	McDonald's opens restaurant in China	Toni Morrison first African American woman to win Nobel Literature Prize	U.S. part of NATO offensive in Bosnia			Pathfinder probe sends back pictures from Mars' surface		

KEY ISSUES

- Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm embroil U.S. troops in first Gulf War
- The breakup of Soviet Union leaves U.S. the world's lone superpower
- U.S. engages around the world in more cooperative, non-military ways
- U.S. increasingly becoming the target of terrorist attacks around globe
- Space exploration continues to inspire, drive global scientific and technical advances, new collaborations
 - Advancing communications and transportation technology continue to "shrink" the world
 - Growing concern over earth's environmental health focuses on global warming
 - U.S. corporations biggest in world
 - Concerns about global implications of possible Y2K computer malfunctions grow

Dynamic Decades: 1990s

Family Life, Work, and School

1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Americans with Disabilities Act passed	Bush signs Civil Rights Act to stem workplace discrimination	Mall of America opens, MN	First concerns about Y2K computer problems	Baseball players strike cancels World Series playoffs	55 mph limit on federal highways repealed	Clinton signs law revamping welfare rules	Clinton announces plan to link U.S. classrooms to Internet by 2000	Viagra hits market	Columbine High School shootings
Tax increase to reduce deficit	Apple Computers and IBM join forces	Cell phones hit market	Worst flooding in U.S. history	Microsoft settles monopoly dispute with Justice Dept	Dow Jones first tops 5000	Clinton signs law mandating v-chips in new TVs	Minimum wage raised to \$5.15	Microsoft becomes biggest U.S. company	Dow Jones first hits 11,000
3 companies offer "dolphin safe" tuna		GM announces major losses, layoffs	EPA calls secondhand smoke serious health threat	10-year-old receives BS degree from University of Southern Alabama		More personal computers sold than TVs	West Paducah, KY school shootings	Exxon buys Mobil to form largest corporation in world	Online holiday sales top \$3 billion
Columbia beams lesson on star birth to students at NASA centers		School shooting, Grayson KY	Minneapolis, MN hires consulting firm to run public schools			Unemployment drops to 5.1%		Jonesboro, AK school shootings	
CDC releases study about weapons in schools		Supreme Court rules against prayer at public school graduations				Texaco settles \$140 million racial discrimination suit		Clinton expands aid to charter schools	

KEY ISSUES

- Organized workers strike to improve conditions
- Internet revolutionizes workplaces, homes, and schools
- Cell phones revolutionize personal, business communications
- Economy stabilizes, then booms
- Disabled Americans join groups seeking equal rights in workplace
- Trend toward huge corporate mergers, multinational conglomerates
- Tension between growing "big business" and government regulation
- School violence, shootings shock nation
- Advancing technology offers unprecedented educational opportunities to schools
- Age of consumerism continues
- Growing concerns about possible implications of Y2K computer problems

Dynamic Decades: 1990s

Science and Technology

1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
MS Windows 3.0 becomes standard for PCs	EPA announces damage to ozone layer over U.S.	Cell phones hit market	EPA calls secondhand smoke serious health threat	Netscape Navigator Web browser released	Hubble Telescope thrills world with photos of "star birth"	Shannon Lucid sets record for time in space—188 days	Pathfinder probe sends back pictures from Mars' surface	Construction begins on International Space Station	Human Genome Project compiles code for human chromosome
AIDS spreading to black, Hispanic women	Galileo probe photographs asteroid Gaspia	CD-ROMs on sale	Researchers emerge from 2 years in Biosphere II, AZ	Protease inhibitors make AIDS treatment more effective		Congressional hearings on Y2K problem	Hale-Bopp comet passes Earth	Viagra hits market	Y2K computer concerns mount
Hubble Space Telescope launched	Apple Computers and IBM join forces	Dr. Kevorkian arrested for assisting suicide in terminal patients				First genetically engineered insect released in FL	Clinton announces plan to link U.S. classrooms to Internet by 2000	Record rainfall in Santa Barbara, CA attributed to global warming	
International Human Genome Project begins	Development of World Wide Web	International Earth Summit				More personal computers sold than TVs	MP3 player developed	John Glenn makes second trip to space on Discovery	
Columbia beams lesson on star birth to students at NASA centers							DVDs available in U.S.	First parts of International Space Station in place	

KEY ISSUES

- Personal computers continue to revolutionize workplaces, homes, and schools
- Internet, World Wide Web open world to average citizens as well as scientists
- Space exploration continues to inspire, drive global scientific and technical advances and new collaborations (International Space Station)
- Growing concern over earth's environmental health prompts new experiments, cooperative efforts
- AIDS epidemic, awareness and treatments evolve
- Human Genome Project exemplifies global scientific cooperation
- MP3, DVD technology revolutionize music, movie sharing
- Concerns about global implications of possible Y2K computer malfunctions grow
- Advancing technology offers unprecedented educational opportunities to schools

Dynamic Decades: 1990s

Key Social Issues

1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
G.H.W. Bush appoints first female, first Hispanic Surgeon General	U.S., allies defeat Iraq in Operation Desert Storm	Police acquitted after beating Rodney King; race riots in Los Angeles	Clinton names first woman Attorney General	Clinton investigated for Whitewater dealings	Oklahoma City Federal Building bombing by domestic terrorists	Clinton reelected, Republicans keep control of Congress	Madeleine Albright first female Secretary of State	Pro wrestler "Body" Ventura elected governor, MN	Y2K computer concerns mount
Operation Desert Shield commences	Controversial Supreme Court Justice Thomas sworn in	Clinton elected President	First concerns about Y2K computer problems	Republicans gain control of Congress	55 mph limit on federal highways repealed	Communications Decency Act signed to regulate World Wide Web	Supreme Courts strikes down Communications Decency Act	Supreme Court rules NEA can consider decency standards in funding	Clinton tried in Senate for obstruction, perjury in Lewinsky scandal; acquitted
20th anniversary of Earth Day celebrated	EPA announces damage to ozone layer over U.S.	Mob boss Gotti jailed for life	Controversial FBI attack on Branch Davidians, Waco TX	Massive earthquake devastates Los Angeles	Federal government shuts down over budget dilemma	First major tobacco company class action settlement	McVeigh, Nichols convicted of Oklahoma City bombing	Gay student Matthew Shepherd murdered in hate crime	Columbine High School shootings
AIDS spreading to black, Hispanic women	70 tornadoes devastate Midwest	Hurricane Andrew hits southern FL	Worst flooding in U.S. history in Midwest	New law protects abortion clinics	O.J. Simpson acquitted after widely publicized murder trial	Controversy over teaching "Ebonics" in schools	"Unabomber" Kaczynski convicted		
Americans with Disabilities Act passed	Notorious serial killer Dahmer convicted	International Earth Summit	Clinton signs Brady gun control bill	CA rules to deny illegal immigrants education, medical care	Million Man March on capitol	Clinton signs law revamping welfare rules	O.J. Simpson held liable for murder in CA civil court		
Bush raises taxes to reduce deficit	Bush signs Civil Rights Act to stem workplace discrimination	Severe earthquake in CA	Dr. Kevorkian arrested for assisting suicide in terminal patients	Protease inhibitors make AIDS treatment more effective	Chicago heat wave kills 733	Unemployment drops to 5.1%	Heaven's Gate cultists commit mass suicide in CA		
	Breakup of Soviet Union leaves U.S. lone superpower	Supreme Court rules against prayer at public school graduations	EEOC rules employers can't discriminate against disabled			Texaco settles \$140 million racial discrimination suit	Tobacco companies settle lawsuits for nearly \$400 billion		
	Domestic Partners Law goes into effect in San Francisco		Gay rights march on Washington			U.S. House affirms marriage as between man and woman	Clinton-Lewinsky scandal comes to light		
	Navy Tailhook sexual harassment scandal								

KEY ISSUES

- Continuing struggle for equal rights: gains for disabled Americans, women, gays and lesbians, racial minorities
- Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm embroil U.S. troops in first Gulf War
- U.S. engages around the world in more cooperative, non-military ways
- Scandals rock Navy, White House
- The breakup of Soviet Union leaves U.S. the world's lone superpower
- Growing concern over earth's environmental health focuses on global warming
- Economy stabilizes, then booms
- AIDS increasingly alarming; new treatments offer relief
- Ongoing concern over dangers of nuclear power and weapons
- Ongoing natural disasters cause hardship
- Personal computers continue to revolutionize workplaces, homes, and schools
- Threats from homegrown, as well as foreign, terrorists grow
- School violence, shootings shock nation
- Age of consumerism continues
- U.S. corporations biggest in world
- Class action, government regulations puts pressure on big business
- Concerns about global implications of possible Y2K computer malfunctions grow

Dynamic Decades: 1990s

Arts, Sports, and Culture

1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
<i>The Simpsons</i> animated sitcom debuts	<i>Thelma & Louise</i> box office hit	Mall of America opens, MN	Beanie Babies introduced	George Foreman oldest to win heavyweight title	O.J. Simpson acquitted after widely publicized murder trial	Summer Olympics in GA (U.S.)	Tiger Woods wins Masters by record score	<i>Titanic</i> wins 11 Academy Awards	U.S. women's soccer team wins World Cup
Burns's documentary <i>Civil War</i> airs	Magic Johnson announces he is HIV positive	Cell phones hit market	Toni Morrison is first African American woman to win Nobel Literature Prize	<i>Pulp Fiction</i> hits theaters	Rock and Roll Hall of Fame opens, OH	Computer graphics film <i>Toy Story</i> released	IBM computer beats world champ Kasparov in chess	McGwire and Sosa break Maris's home run record	Tori Murden first American woman to row across Atlantic
Persian Gulf War covered live on TV	Songs from Nirvana's <i>Nevermind</i> speak for Generation X	Waller's <i>Bridges of Madison County</i> a hit	Movie <i>Jurassic Park</i> released	Tiger Woods first black, youngest to win U.S. Amateur Golf Championship		Cal Ripken sets record for most consecutive baseball games played	<i>Ally McBeal</i> hits airwaves	<i>Saving Private Ryan</i> box office hit	<i>Star Wars Episode 1</i> breaks box office records
<i>Seinfeld</i> debuts on TV	First Planet Hollywood restaurant opens, NYC	VP Quayle criticizes <i>Murphy Brown</i> show's poor "family values"		Skater Tonya Harding has rival Nancy Kerrigan attacked at Olympic Trials		Clinton signs law mandating v-chips in new TVs	Ellen DeGeneres first openly gay lead character on TV show	"Shock Jock" Stern begins nightly TV show	<i>Blair Witch Project</i> is instant cult classic
Controversy over federal funding for arts judged obscene	Development of World Wide Web	First non-U.S. team wins World Series		Baseball players strike cancels World Series playoffs		Oprah's Book Club launched	Cats sets record for longest-running show on Broadway	Jennifer Lopez becomes highest paid Latina actress	
Book <i>Iron John</i> gives voice to growing men's movement				25th anniversary Woodstock concert, NY			22% Americans believe space aliens have contacted humans	Supreme Court rules NEA can consider decency standards in funding	
							Lilith Fair features female rockers		
							MP3 players, DVDs available		
							<i>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone</i> sweeps nation		

KEY ISSUES

- Entertainment tests limits of acceptable taste, values
- Government debates funding, regulation of controversial arts/entertainment
- Arts and culture reflect both social issues and escapism
- Movies, TV tend toward satire, cynicism
- Decade of high-budget blockbuster movies
- Internet, World Wide Web open world to average citizens
- Cell phones revolutionize personal, business communications
- MP3, DVD technology revolutionize music, movie sharing

Suggested Resources

Print

1990s by Adam Woog (American History by Decade series). KidHaven Press, 2003. ISBN 0737717513.

The 1990s by Gail Stewart (A Cultural History of the United States through the Decades series). Lucent Books, 1998. ISBN 1560065591.

The 1990s: From the Persian Gulf War to Y2K by Stephen Feinstein (Decades of the 20th Century series). Enslow, 2006. ISBN 0766026396.

The 90s by Dan Epstein (20th Century Pop Culture series). Chelsea House, 2000. ISBN 0791060896.

All the People 1945–2001 by Joy Hakim (A History of Us series, Volume 10). Oxford University Press, 2002. ISBN 0195153393.

Bowling, Beatniks, and Bell-Bottoms: Pop Culture of 20th Century America edited by Sara Pendergast and Tom Pendergast. Thomson Gale, 2002 (Volume 5). ISBN 0797656901.

The Century for Young People by Peter Jennings, Todd Brewster, and Jennifer Armstrong. Doubleday Books for Young Readers, 1999. ISBN 0395329090.

The Changing Face of American Society 1945–2000 by Christopher Collier and James Lincoln Collier (The Drama of American History series). Benchmark Books, 2002. ISBN 0991413199.

A Dream of Freedom: The Civil Rights Movement from 1954 to 1999 by Diane McWhorter. Scholastic Nonfiction, 2004. ISBN 0439599994.

Fashions of a Decade—the 1990s by Bailey Publishing Associates and Elane Feldman (Fashions of a Decade series). Chelsea House, 2006. ISBN 0816067252.

The Impeachment of William Jefferson Clinton by Daniel Cohen. Twenty-First Century Books, 2000. ISBN 0761317112.

The Middle Road: American Politics 1945–2000 by Christopher Collier and James Lincoln Collier (The Drama of American History series). Benchmark Books, 2002. ISBN 0991413199.

The Nineties by Judith Condon (Look at Life In series). Raintree, 2000. ISBN 0739813420.

Oxford Children's Book of the 20th Century: A Concise Guide to a Century of Contrast and Change by Stewart Ross. Oxford University Press, 1999. ISBN 0195214999.

The Persian Gulf War by Rodney P. Carlisle. Facts on File, 2003. ISBN 0816049424.

UXL American Decades—1990–1999 edited by Rob Nagel. UXL, 2002. ISBN 0787664642.

Nonprint

Casey Kasem: America's Top 10: The 90s Rock's Greatest Hits by various artists. Top Sail Productions, 2001 (Music CD). ASIN: B000AAF26W. This CD presents 20 top rock hits of the decade performed by the original artists.

Space Station directed by Toni Myers. IMAX, 2005 (DVD). ASIN: B00080ETMM. NASA and IMAX cooperate to share the story of the International Space Station being built by sixteen collaborating nations.

Web Sites

- *American Cultural History: 1990–1999*, <http://kclibrary.nhmccd.edu/decade90.html>.
- *AmericanPresident.org*, <http://www.americanpresident.org/history>. Check out biographies of the first President Bush and President Clinton.
- *AT&T Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Museum*, <http://www.rockhall.com/home/default.asp>. Check out the 1990s entries in the "Today in Rock History" section, under the Backstage Pass tab.
- *Greatest Space Events of the 20th Century: The 90s*, http://www.space.com/news/spacehistory/yir_greatest_1990s_000103.html.
- *PBS Frontline: The Gulf War*, <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/gulf>. Explore an oral history in interviews with key players, war stories, and weapons and technology from the Gulf crisis of 1990–1991.
- *Twentieth Century Inventions 1900–1999*, <http://inventors.about.com/library/weekly/aa010500a.htm>. Year by year highlights with links to further information.
- *WWW-VL: History: USA: 1990–1999*, <http://vlib.iue.it/history/USA/ERAS/20TH/1990s.html>. An umbrella site offering many links arranged in the form of an outline of the decade.

Supplemental Resources

Fiction

The 1990s: Families by Dorothy and Tom Hoobler. The Millbrook Press, 2002. ISBN 0761316094. This last *Century Kids* series title reunites the Aldrich, Vivanti and Dixon families to celebrate the turning of the millennium, amidst two 100th birthdays, a missing relative, and Y2K concerns.

Born to Rock by Gordon Korman. Hyperion, 2006. ISBN 0786809205. Young Republican and soon-to-be Harvard freshman Leo has gotten some disturbing news—his real father is an infamous '80s punk rocker. When a misunderstanding costs Leo his scholarship, he agrees to accompany the reunited band on a summer tour, hoping to finagle his reprobate father into paying for school. But nothing goes quite as planned in this funny, wild, surprising story.

Bronx Masquerade by Nikki Grimes. Dial Books, 2003. ISBN 0803725698. An urban high school classroom unit on the Harlem Renaissance takes a poetic turn, as 18 students with very different backgrounds share glimpses of themselves at "Open Mike Fridays." While not always pretty, this quick read is full of fresh, believable voices, hip-hop rhythms, and challenges to stereotypical thinking.

Dead Girls Don't Write Letters by Gail Giles. Roaring Brook Press, 2003. ISBN 0761328130. Sunny lived in the shadow of her older sister Jazz. When Jazz dies in a fire, Sunny's grief is mixed with relief. Imagine the shock when a girl resembling Jazz shows up with a lame explanation and steps into Jazz's role in the family! What really happened to Jazz? Who is this imposter? This psychological mystery has a stunning twist that will leave you with more questions than answers.

Fresh Girl by Jaira Placide. Wendy Lamb Books, 2002. ISBN 0385327536. This introspective first-person novel follows the experiences of a young refugee from war-torn Haiti as she tries to adjust to life in New York City, relate to her stressed family, and cope with the dark secrets of her suffering in her home country. Engaging and powerful.

Gulf War Journal by Don Lomax. IBooks, 2004. ISBN 0743486692. This graphic novel offers a personal glimpse of Operation Desert Storm (and later, Operation Iraqi Freedom) through the eyes of a free-thinking war correspondent who breaks the rules and takes off on his own to experience "the unauthorized version." Not for the faint hearted!

An Island Like You: Stories of the Barrio by Judith Ortiz Cofer. Peter Smith Publisher Inc., 1999. ISBN 0844669679. This collection of twelve interrelated short stories paints a picture of life for Puerto Rican American teens in a barrio outside New York City.

The Kid Who Ran for President by Dan Gutman. Scholastic Paperbacks, 2000. ISBN 0590939882. Laugh along as 12-year-old Judson Moon, his high-powered campaign manager, streetwise elderly African American running mate, and ditzzy "First Babe" challenge the adult stranglehold on the 2000 presidential election. Absurd, hilarious, and still thought provoking.

Monster by Walter Dean Myers. HarperCollins Children's Books, 2001. ISBN 0064407314. Sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon is in jail, accused of murder, frightened and despairing. As a way to cope, he records his experiences in a movie script. Interspersed with journal-style notes is his script, which chronicles the trial. A riveting multiple award winner, with lots of mature content.

Nothing but the Truth by Avi. Orchard Books, 2003. ISBN 043932730X. Upset with his English teacher, Philip gets back at her by breaking a school rule about silence during the playing of the national anthem. What should have been a simple disciplinary matter sets off a national firestorm about education, freedom of speech, and patriotism. A Newbery Honor Book.

Over the Wall by John H. Ritter. Putnam Juvenile, 2002. ISBN 0698119312. Thirteen-year-old Tyler has serious anger issues, stemming from the accidental death of his sister and his father's guilt-induced emotional absence since the accident. During a summer playing Little League baseball in New York City, Tyler gets unexpected help from a Vietnam War veteran coach with his own history of anger, and begins to heal. An interesting combination of sports action and character drama.

Peace is a Four-Letter Word by Janet Nichols Lynch. Heyday Books, 2005. ISBN 1597140147. When a teacher inspires cheerleader Emily to protest the beginnings of the Persian Gulf War, Emily finds herself at odds with her conservative community and most of the people who are important to her.

Rules of the Road by Joan Bauer. Putnam Juvenile, 1998. ISBN 0399231404. This funny, introspective first-person novel follows Jenna Boller, teen shoe salesperson extraordinaire, on an unlikely road trip from Chicago to Texas as chauffeur to the crotchety old president of the company for which she works.

Running out of Time by Margaret Peterson Haddix. Aladdin, 1997. ISBN 0689812361. A medical crisis in Jessie's 1840 Indiana town requires Jessie's mother to reveal a bizarre truth—Jessie's whole community is a "history preserve" tourist attraction. In the real world outside, it's 1996! But the rich owner of the town has become secretive and threatening, and Jessie must sneak out into a "future" she can hardly imagine to get help.

Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants by Ann Brashares. Random House Children's Books, 2004. ISBN 0440229707. A pair of jeans that, mysteriously, fits four friends with different body types, becomes the glue that keeps the girls connected during an important summer during which each faces coming-of-age challenges. A multiple award winner.

Soldier Mom by Alice Mead. Yearling, 2001. ISBN 0440229006. Eleven-year-old Jasmyn's mom, an Army reservist, is called up to serve in Operation Desert Storm, leaving Jasmyn and her baby brother in the care of her immature, reluctant fiancé. The story explores issues of friendship, family, and the often-hidden costs of war.

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli. Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2002. ISBN 037582233X. Stargirl sweeps into Mica Area High School wearing old-fashioned dresses, serenades students with her ukulele, and carries a pet rat. While fellow students scorn her, Leo Borlock is caught in the middle, between his heart and his need to fit in. This compelling novel paints a painful picture of nonconformity under fire.

T-Backs, T-Shirts, COAT, and Suit by E. L. Konigsburg. Aladdin, 2003. ISBN 0689856822. When Chloe spends the summer in Florida with her quirky ex-hippie Aunt Bernadette, she gets caught up in a controversy over roadside food service workers wearing of revealing t-back bathing suits on the job.

Tangled Threads by Pegi Deitz Shea. Clarion Books, 2003. ISBN 0618247483. When Mai Yang arrives in America, after the horrors of war in Laos and a refugee camp in Thailand, she is thrilled to be safe, free, and reunited with her Hmong family. But she soon learns that adjusting to life in Rhode Island, and finding her place in a family torn between old ways and new, will require all her strength and courage.

Things Not Seen by Andrew Clements. Puffin Books, 2006. ISBN 0142407313. Average teen Bobby wakes up one morning anything but average—he's invisible! His shocked parents insist on secrecy, fearing dangerous reactions. Caught up in their own responses, they leave Bobby to navigate an emotional and physical minefield without much help, until he befriends a pretty blind girl.

Nonfiction

The Digital Decade: The 90s by the editors of Time-Life Books. Time-Life Books, 2000. ISBN 0783555210.

Life: Our Century in Pictures for Young People, edited by Richard B. Stolley. Little, Brown and Company, 2000. ISBN 0316815896.

The O.J. Simpson Murder Trial: A Headline Court Case by Michael J. Pellowski (Headline Court Cases series). Enslow Publishers, 2001. ISBN 0766014800.

Our American Century: Events that Shaped the Century by the editors of Time-Life Books. Time-Life, 1998. ISBN 0883555024.

Pedro and Me: Friendship, Loss, and What I Learned by Judd Winick. Henry Holt and Company, 2000. ISBN 0805064036. In 1993, Winick joined the cast of MTV's *The Real World*. His roommate was 22-year-old Pedro Zamora, an HIV-positive AIDS educator. Winick, a cartoonist, shares in graphic-novel format his journey of deepening friendship with Pedro, and Pedro's strength and courage, during the show and through Pedro's death in 1994. The subject matter requires some explicit sexual content, which is handled with honesty and sensitivity.

Twentieth-Century Teen Culture by the Decades: A Reference Guide by Lucy Rollin. Greenwood Press, 1999. ISBN 0313302235.

Visual Timeline of the 20th Century by Simon Adams. Dorling Kindersley, 1996. ISBN 0889409986.

Nonprint

Bowling for Columbine by Michael Moore. MGM, 2003 (DVD). UPC: 027616882264. Moore's controversial film looks at guns and violence in America in general, and the Columbine school shootings in particular.

Web Sites

- *American Architecture—Twentieth Century—1980–1989*, http://www.greatbuildings.com/types/usa/usa_1990-1999.html.
- *The Authentic History Center: Primary Sources from American Popular Culture, 1990s*, <http://www.authentichistory.com/1990s.html>. This interesting site tells stories of the period through audio clips and images from pop culture.
- *CEA's Digital America: 1990s*, http://www.ce.org/Press/CEA_Pubs/958.asp. A detailed chronology of the evolution of digital technology in the nineties.
- *Film History of the 1990s*, <http://www.filmsite.org/90sintro.html>.
- *Media History Timeline: The 1990s*, <http://www.mediahistory.umn.edu/time/1990s.html>. Very detailed chronology of noteworthy events.
- *A Science Odyssey: Then + Now*, <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aso/thenandnow>. A chronology with a focus on advances in science and technology.
- *Southern Music Network*, <http://www.southernmusic.net/1990.htm>. An interesting overview of the decade's music.

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