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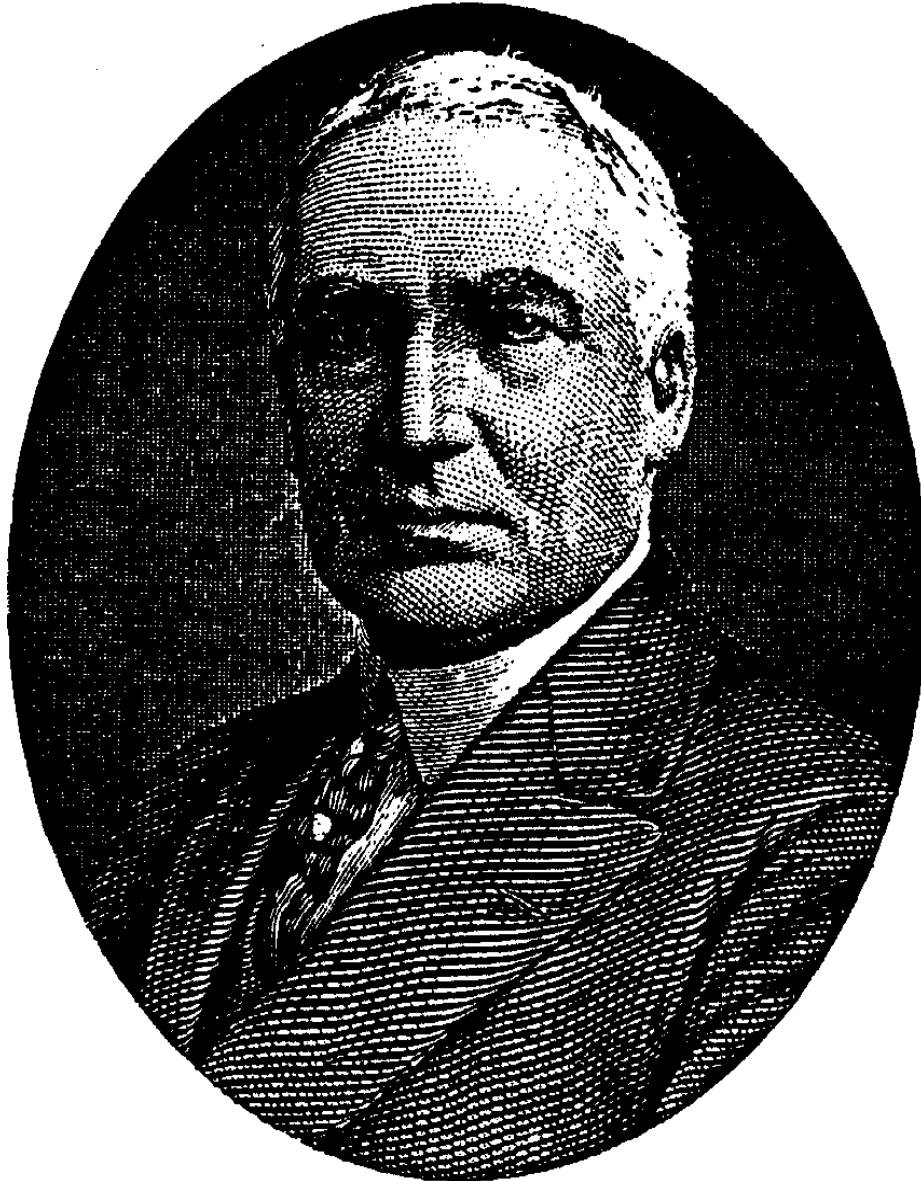
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1920's

***Creative Activities for Teaching
Critical Thinking & Writing***
U.S. History: The 1920's



Stevens & Shea Publishers

Introduction

This unit emphasizes writing and critical thinking. There are basically three types of activities. The news stories, writing exercises and telegrams require students to evaluate, prioritize and write about historical events. They must **use** the information rather than just passively memorizing.

The chronology activity requires students to detect trends and draw conclusions.

The viewpoints and issues activities present different views of the same event rather than just the single view often presented by textbooks. The critical thinking exercises that accompany these units require the students to evaluate the information.

Many of the activities deal with popular news stories of the decade that are usually not covered in textbooks.

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Creative Activities for Teaching Critical Thinking and Writing U.S. History: The 20th Century

There are nine units in this series.

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- SS142 1920's
- SS143 1930's
- SS144 1940's
- SS145 1950's
- SS146 1960's
- SS147 1970's
- SS148 1980's



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1920's

Directions

Chronology Logic

Events must be placed in chronological order. Each event has internal clues which place it in between other events. Students must read carefully and evaluate what they read.

Chronology

The major events of the decade are listed year by year. Students must categorize events, detect trends and decide on the ten most important events of the decade.

Decisions

Major decisions of the decade are presented and students are to discuss and decide the best possible choice.

People and Terms

Students can categorize the people and decide who was the most important or influential in each category.

Crosswords

Puzzles reinforce the items on the people and terms lists.

Viewpoints

Events and personalities are viewed from two different points of view. There is a page of questions and activities that emphasize critical thinking that accompanies the two viewpoints. Students should discuss and compare answers.

News Stories

The facts of major news stories of the decade are presented in random order. The students must write a news story using the inverted pyramid—mention the most important facts at the beginning of the story and the least important facts at the end. The stories should be limited in the number of words, e.g., 75 words. Students must prioritize information. Students can read and compare their stories.

Issues

Major issues are presented from two points of view. Students must decide which they agree with the most. Students can write short essays stating their position.

News Writing

Several primary resources are provided for students to write a story. The sources and events are fictional but are typical of the decade. The student must assess the information and write a news report. Students should be reminded to cover who, what, when, where, why and how. They should also write the story placing the important facts first and the least important last.

Telegrams

Major news stories of the decade are described and students must condense the information into telegrams of no more than 10 or 20 words. Complete sentences are not required. Emphasis is upon selecting the important details.

Data Analysis

Data is presented for students to interpret and graph.

Critical Thinking

Students must critically evaluate statements about the decade, select the most precise and general statements, detect emotional words and write generalizations.

Answers

Page

4

Chronology Logic

1. C 2. I 3. B 4. D 5. F 6. A 7. H 8. G 9. E.

5-6

Decisions

Have students research what actually happened.

12

Crossword: People

Across: 1. Scopes 5. Woodrow Wilson 8. Warren Harding 9. Lindbergh 12. Babe Ruth 14. Grange 16. Hoover 17. Jones 18. Vanzetti. **Down:** 2. Coolidge 3. Sunday 4. Ederle 6. Smith 7. Bugs 10. Darrow 11. Daugherty 13. Tilden 15. Bugs 19. Ness.

13

Crossword: Terms

Across: 1. RFC 5. Volstead Act 6. KKK 11. Teapot Dome 12. Farm Bloc 14. bootlegger 15. Jazz Age 17. Flivver 18. . **Down:** 2. Fordney McCumber 3. speakeasy 4. flapper 7. Klan 8. Palmer Raids 9. normalcy 10. McNary-Haugen 13. Prohibition 16. art deco.

14

Crossword: Artists

Across: 1. Pickford 5. Wright 6. Swanson 7. Gershwin 11. Lewis 13. Shiek 14. Georgia O'Keefe 15. Carl Sandburg 17. O'Neill 18. Clara Bow 19. Van Alen. **Down:** 2. Fitzgerald 3. Chaplin 4. Frost 7. Grant Wood 9. Fairbanks 10. Hemingway 12. Willa Cather 13. Sheeler 16. Benton.

15

Crossword: Harlem Renaissance

Across: 4. Satchmo 6. Josephine Baker 9. Harlem 11. Fats Waller 13. Jazz 14. Duke 17. Eubie Blake 18. New Orleans **Down:** 1. blues 2. Wright 3. Bontemps 5. Claude McKay 7. Paul Robeson 8. Langston Hughes 10. Roland Hayes 12. Bessie 15. Cullen 16. Oliver.

16-21

Viewpoints

Students should compare and discuss answers.

22-27

News Stories

Students should compare reports.

28-31

Issues

Students should compare reports.

32-33

News Writing

Students should compare reports.

34

Data Analysis

Students should discuss and compare answers.

35-36

Critical Thinking

Students should discuss and vote on correct answers. There are not always correct answers to these items.

A. Coolidge re-elected

Coolidge believed government should stay out of people's lives. People are happy with Coolidge's term in office since he became president after Harding's death.

B. Immigration reduced

After World War I many Americans are afraid of socialists and anarchists. After the Red Scare and the deportation of many radicals, Congress sets strict limits on immigration.

C. Radicals are deported

The communists took control of Russia in 1917. Many in the U.S. had a fear of radicals. Many radicals were foreign born and opposed the U.S. involvement in World War I. The communist victory in Russia increased the worry about radicals in America. Many were arrested and deported during the "Red Scare" immediately following World War I.

D. Washington Treaty to limit armaments

World War I is not far behind. The U.S. refused to sign the League of Nations agreement. The U.S. population feels secure. Radicals have been deported and immigration restricted. The Washington disarmament conference of 1921 limits the construction of battleships, bans the use of poison gas, restricts sub warfare and maintains open markets in China.

E. Albert Fall convicted

Shortly before the stockmarket collapses and the booming 20's comes to an end, Albert Fall, Harding's Secretary of the Interior is finally convicted of taking a \$100,000 bribe for selling government owned oil leases.

F. Warren Harding dies

Harding dies, some say, of a broken heart amidst charges of corruption by his friends. He has failed to complete his first term in office.

G. Stockmarket Crash

The booming 20's are brought to an end by a crash of the stockmarket. Prices fall drastically, eventually resulting in a slow-down of the economy that produces high unemployment.

H. Lindbergh flies Atlantic

Charles Lindbergh flies the Atlantic Ocean alone. He becomes a popular hero. America has a very positive feeling. Coolidge has been elected to second term. The stockmarket is booming and many new consumer conveniences are coming on the market.

I. Warren Harding elected

After a period of war and domestic turmoil, Warren Harding, a newspaper publisher from Ohio, is elected president to begin the decade of the 1920's. Immediately after taking office, immigration restrictions are passed by Congress.

Directions

Below are some of the major events of the 1920's. Read them carefully and using the clues offered, arrange them in chronological order beginning with the earliest.

Answers

1. **C**_____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. **E**_____
9. _____

1920's

Chronology

1920

- Attorney General Palmer raids offices of radicals, communists and anarchists. 2,700 arrested.
- Senate refuses to ratify League of Nations treaty.
- Nicolo Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, two radicals, accused of killing bank guard in Massachusetts. Convicted. World wide protests. Finally executed in 1927.
- First regular licensed radio broadcasting begins.
- 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote ratified.
- League of Women Voters founded.
- Bomb explodes on Wall street. Kills 30 and injures 100. Radicals suspected.
- Sinclair Lewis' *Main Street* and F. Scott Fitzgerald's *This Side of Paradise* published.

1921

- Congress passes law to cut immigration. Immigration quotas are set.
- U.S. signs peace treaty with Germany, Hungary and Austria.
- Limitation of Armaments Treaty signed in Washington, D.C. by major powers. Limits construction of battleships, bans use of poison gas, restricts submarine warfare and respects integrity of China.
- Ku Klux Klan revives in Midwest, North and South. Violence against blacks increases.

1922

- Violent coal mine strike in Illinois. 36 are killed.

Directions

Use the chronology for the following activities.

1. Put the events into groups. Decide what categories you would put them into. For example, women, radicals, peace, etc.

2. What general trends do you see in the 1920's? Write a report. For example, What is the trend in women's rights?

3. Decide on what are the ten most important events of the 1920's. Tell why.

- Reader's Digest* founded.

1923

- First sound-on-film picture shown by Lee deForest.
- Harding dies and Calvin Coolidge becomes president.

1924

- All Indians are made citizens by congressional law.
- First woman governor, Nellie Tayloe Ross, elected in Wyoming.
- Miriam (Ma) Ferguson elected governor of Texas shortly after.
- George Gershwin writes *Rhapsody in Blue*.
- Coolidge elected president.

1925

- John Scopes found guilty of teaching evolution in Tennessee.



George Herman Ruth was the greatest baseball star of the 1920's. The "Babe" played for the New York Yankees.

1926

- Dr. Robert Goddard demonstrates first practical rocket.
- Air Commerce Act passed. Provides financial aid to airlines and airports.

1927

- 1,000 U.S. Marines land in China to protect American property during civil war.
- Charles Lindbergh first to fly across Atlantic alone.
- The Jazz Singer* with Al Jolson, first commercial talking picture, shown.
- Show boat* opens on Broadway.

1928

- Herbert Hoover elected president.

1929

- St. Valentine's Day Massacre in Chicago. Gangsters kill 7 rivals.
- Agricultural Marketing Act passed to stabilize farm prices.
- Albert Fall, former Secretary of the Interior, convicted of taking a \$100,000 bribe in the leasing of U.S.-owned oil land.
- Stock market crash. Stock prices fall. An estimated \$50 billion is lost. Worst U.S. depression begins.
- Thomas Wolfe publishes *Look Homeward Angel*. William Faulkner publishes *The Sound and the Fury*.

Charles Lindbergh was the first to fly the Atlantic Ocean solo. He was a popular hero during the 20's.



Directions

These are some of the important decisions faced by Presidents Harding, Coolidge and Hoover during the 1920's. If you were president how would you have decided? Check a reference book to find out what decisions were actually made and why.

Eugene Debs

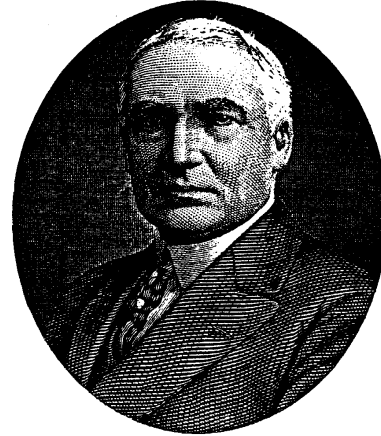
Eugene Debs was the leader of the Socialist Party. He opposed the U.S. entry into World War I. He as well as other radicals who opposed the war were tried for sedition (being unloyal to the United States) and were sent to prison. When Warren Harding took office there were 200 political prisoners in jail. Debs was the most famous. He had run as the Socialist candidate for president while in jail in 1920. Many conservative businessmen who supported Harding wanted to see Debs kept in jail. Some thought it was time to heal the wounds created by World War I. To Harding it was a matter of releasing Debs, and other radicals, from prison. What would you do?

- A. Release Debs
- B. Allow Debs to serve out his sentence.

Corruption

It wasn't long after Harding took office that charges of corruption by some of his appointees surfaced. Harding created the Veterans' Bureau to help the many injured veterans of World War I. He appointed an old friend, Charlie Forbes, to head it. Forbes proceeded to use the job to line his own pockets. Forbes resigned and his assistant committed suicide.

Fingers also pointed at another old friend of Harding, Harry M. Daugherty. Daugherty was instrumental in getting Harding the Republican nomination and as his reward, Harding appointed him Attorney General. In the first few years of his administration, advisors were telling him to dump Daugherty. It was widely known that he was involved in taking bribes for influence peddling. However, no charges had been



**Warren
Harding**

brought against him. What would you do?

- A. Ask Daugherty to resign.
- B. Stand by your old friend.

War Debts

World War I began in 1914. The United States did not enter the war until 1917. The U.S. was the chief supplier of goods and money to England and France during the first part of the war. It loaned billions of dollars to those countries so that they could fight the war. After the war, the U.S. made more loans to help rebuild their countries. The total debt including interest by 1922 was \$11 billion. \$7.5 billion of the debt was loans made during the war and \$3.5 billion was made after the war. The money loaned during the war was at 5%, but the U.S. government borrowed the money at 4.5% interest. The U.S. government made money on the loans.

France and Great Britain had difficulty paying off the loans. Harding appointed Herbert Hoover to head a commission on the war debts. Hoover recommended that the U.S. forgive the \$7.5 billion war debt as the U.S. contribution to the war. Hoover doubted that Congress would accept this idea so he had a more moderate proposal: stretch the payments over 62 years and reduce the interest to 3%. Harding had died and Coolidge was now president. Which proposal would you accept?

- A. Forgive the \$7.5 billion debt.
- B. Stretch the payments over 62 years and reduce the interest.

Dawes Plan

Germany was forced to pay enormous reparations to the Allies for the damage that it had done during the war. The German economy was in shambles and they did not have the money to pay the reparations. France was unhappy with Germany's failure to pay. It sent troops into the Ruhr, Germany's main industrial region, and took control of it. The U.S. worked out a compromise. There would be a one year moratorium on payments and annual payments would be cut by 80%. U.S. banks would loan Germany \$2.5 billion to help revive German industry.

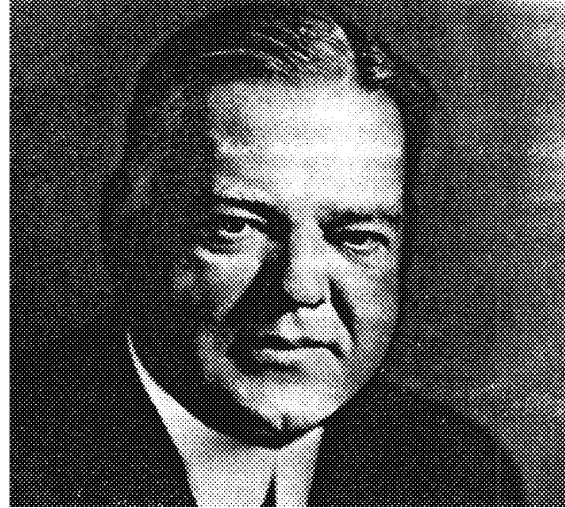
Germany could not pay reparations to the United States either. The U.S. did want the Allies to repay the money it loaned them during the war. It was unlikely that the Allies would pay back the U.S. unless they received reparation payments from Germany and it was impossible for Germany to pay the reparations without the revival of German industry. Would you accept this idea?

- A. Loan Germany money.
- B. Don't loan it the money.

McNary-Haugen

During the 1920's farmers had been in trouble because of the drop in farm prices. Farmers produced too much and the supply always seem to keep ahead of demand. Senators McNary and Haugen came up with an idea in 1923 to raise the price of farm products. The government would buy the surplus crops. A fee would be charged on each crop that came to market and that would provide the government with the money to buy the surpluses.

Critics of the bill claimed that the farmers, with increased prices that were supported by the government, would simply produce more and the government would be required to buy more surpluses. Critics also claimed that the bill put the government into the business of fixing prices. In 1928 both houses of Congress passed the bill with strong support. Should the president sign

**Herbert Hoover**

the bill?

- A. Sign it.
- B. Veto it.

Hawley-Smoot

Since the Civil War the United States had had a high tariff on imported goods to protect American industry. The tariffs were reduced in 1913 by the Underwood-Simons Act. But after World War I the U.S. began its protectionist policy again with the Fordney McCumber Tariff of 1921. High tariffs increase the prices to consumers in the United States and encourage other countries to raise their tariffs to keep out U.S. exports.

However, many farmers and manufacturers believe tariffs can protect particular industries and keep U.S. factories open and provide jobs. In a special session of Congress called by Hoover in 1929 to deal with the problems of the Depression, Senators Hawley and Smoot introduced a new tariff law which sharply increased taxes. Many economists thought that this would just worsen the Depression. It would encourage other countries to do the same and world trade would decline, throwing more people out of work. One thousand economists asked Hoover not to sign the bill which was certain to pass Congress. What would you do?

- A. Sign the bill.
- B. Veto the bill.

normalcy

Warren G. Harding coined this term to define what he thought the American people wanted.

Teapot Dome Scandal

Teapot Dome was an oilfield in Wyoming that belonged to the federal government. The Secretary of the Interior leased the oil field to a private oil company. It later turned out that the Secretary of the Interior had accepted a bribe in this case and in the leasing of other federal oil lands.

Jazz Age

A nickname for the 1920's. The 20's was the time that jazz became popular.

speakeasy

A place where a person could buy an illegal drink.

bootlegger

A person who produced and/or sold liquor during prohibition. Some were gangsters.

prohibition

The 18th Amendment which prohibited the manufacture and sale of alcohol.

flapper

A nickname for the newly liberated woman. A girl who wore short dresses, or short hair, or smoked, or drank, or flirted with men.

flivver

A nickname for cars.

tin lizzie

The nickname for the Model T Ford which was the car that most Americans could afford.

Volstead Act

The Congressional Act that put prohibition into effect.

Hawley-Smoot Tariff

Passed in 1930. It raised tariffs on imported goods to the highest levels ever.

Fordney-McCumber Tariff

Passed in 1921. It was designed to provide for flexible tariffs but actually was used to increase tariffs.

McNary-Haugen Act

A proposal to help farmers by having the government buy up surplus crops and sell them to foreign countries. The bill was twice vetoed.

farm bloc

A group of senators from farm states which pushed for legislation to help farmers.

Art Deco

A modern art style that developed during the 1920's.

Reconstruction Finance Corporation

Herbert Hoover's chief response to the Great Depression. Provided loans to businesses.

UNIA

United Negro Improvement Association. Founded by Marcus Garvey, it promoted blacks returning to Africa and black self-help.

KKK

Ku Klux Klan is a secret segregationist society. It was revived during the 1920's and became a politically potent force in a number of southern and midwestern states. Declined in power as one of its leaders was convicted for rape and murder.

Palmer Raids

Raids upon radicals conducted by Wilson's Attorney General J. Mitchell Palmer.

Washington Disarmament Conference

A conference of the major powers to limit the size of navies and maintain an "open door" in China.

Dawes Plan

A plan for alleviating the German war debt.

Kellogg-Briand Treaty

A treaty signed by 63 countries in 1928. They agreed to abandon war as an instrument of national policy.

Immigration Quota Law

Limited immigration to the U.S. to 2% of each nationality already living in the U.S. in 1890. Passed in 1924. In effect it restricted immigration to people from northern Europe and excluded Asians.

1920's

Artists

Carl Sandburg

A poet from Illinois who wrote poetry about everyday things.

F. Scott Fitzgerald

Famous novelist of the 1920's who wrote about the "Jazz Age."

Ernest Hemingway

Famous novelist of the 1920's who wrote about the adventurous life.

T.S. Eliot

Famous poet of the 1920's who wrote about the darker side of life.

Eugene O'Neill

Famous playwright of the 1920's.

Willa Cather

Novelist.

Robert Frost

A famous poet of the 1920's.

Sinclair Lewis

Novelist who wrote about the bigotry and hypocrisy of everyday life.

George Gershwin

Composer of many great musicals. Strongly influenced by black music (jazz).

Charlie Chaplin

Movie star. Famous for his "Little Tramp" character. An Englishman by birth. He was later accused of being a leftist.

Frank Lloyd Wright

Architect who established a new style of building. First to use a combination of wood and concrete. He built houses that harmonized with nature.

Grant Wood

Artist. Painted America's most famous 20th Century painting, American Gothic.

Thomas Hart Benton

Artist. Painted scenes from America's past.

Georgia O'Keefe

Artist. Painted natural objects such as flowers in a dramatic way.

Charles Sheeler

Photographer and artist. He took realistic photos of Ford's Rouge factory. He also painted machinery in an unsentimental way.

George Bellows

An artist and a leader in the "ashcan school" of painting. Famous for his prize-fight paintings.

Daniel Chester French

Sculptor. Considered a hack. He carved the statue of Lincoln in the Lincoln Memorial.

Walter Van Alen

Architect. Designed the classic Art Deco building. The Chrysler Building in New York was completed in 1930.

Raymond Hood

Architect. The most successful architect of the 1920's. Designed the Radiator building, the first colored skyscraper, the Daily News building and the McGraw-Hill building and most of Rockefeller Center.

Rudolph Valentino

The leading heartthrob of the 20's. Movie star.

Mary Pickford

Movie star.

Douglas Fairbanks, Sr.

Movie star noted for his action-packed adventures.

Clara Bow

Movie star.

Theda Bara

Movie star nicknamed the "Vamp."

Gloria Swanson

Movie star.



Louis Armstrong

James Weldon Johnson

Famous poet.

Countee Cullen

Harlem-born poet.

Langston Hughes

From Cleveland, Ohio. Famous for his poetry and "Simple" stories. Famous poems *The Negro Speaks of Rivers* and *The Weary Blues*.

Duke Ellington

Band leader and composer. Most famous songs *Mood Indigo* and *Take the A Train*.

Eubie Blake

Musician and composer. Wrote famous musical *Shuffle Along* with Ossie Sissle. Famous song *I'm Just Wild About Harry*.

Louie Armstrong

Famous jazz trumpeter and singer. Became the foremost black entertainer during the 1950's and 60's.

Bessie Smith

Blues singer.

Arna Bontemps

Famous poet and author.

Roland Hayes

The first black to perform with leading symphony orchestras. Singer.

Josephine Baker

Dancer who became famous in Paris during the 1920's.

King Oliver

Leader of jazz band that brought New Orleans style jazz to Chicago.

Richard Wright

Famous novelist. Most famous book *Native Son*.

Claude McKay

West Indian by birth. Most famous poems *If We Must Die* and *Harlem Dancer*.

Harlem

A section of New York City where blacks settled during World War I and after. Became the center for black arts.

Jazz

The music form that was developed by blacks during the 1920's.

New Orleans

The city where jazz originated.

Fats Waller

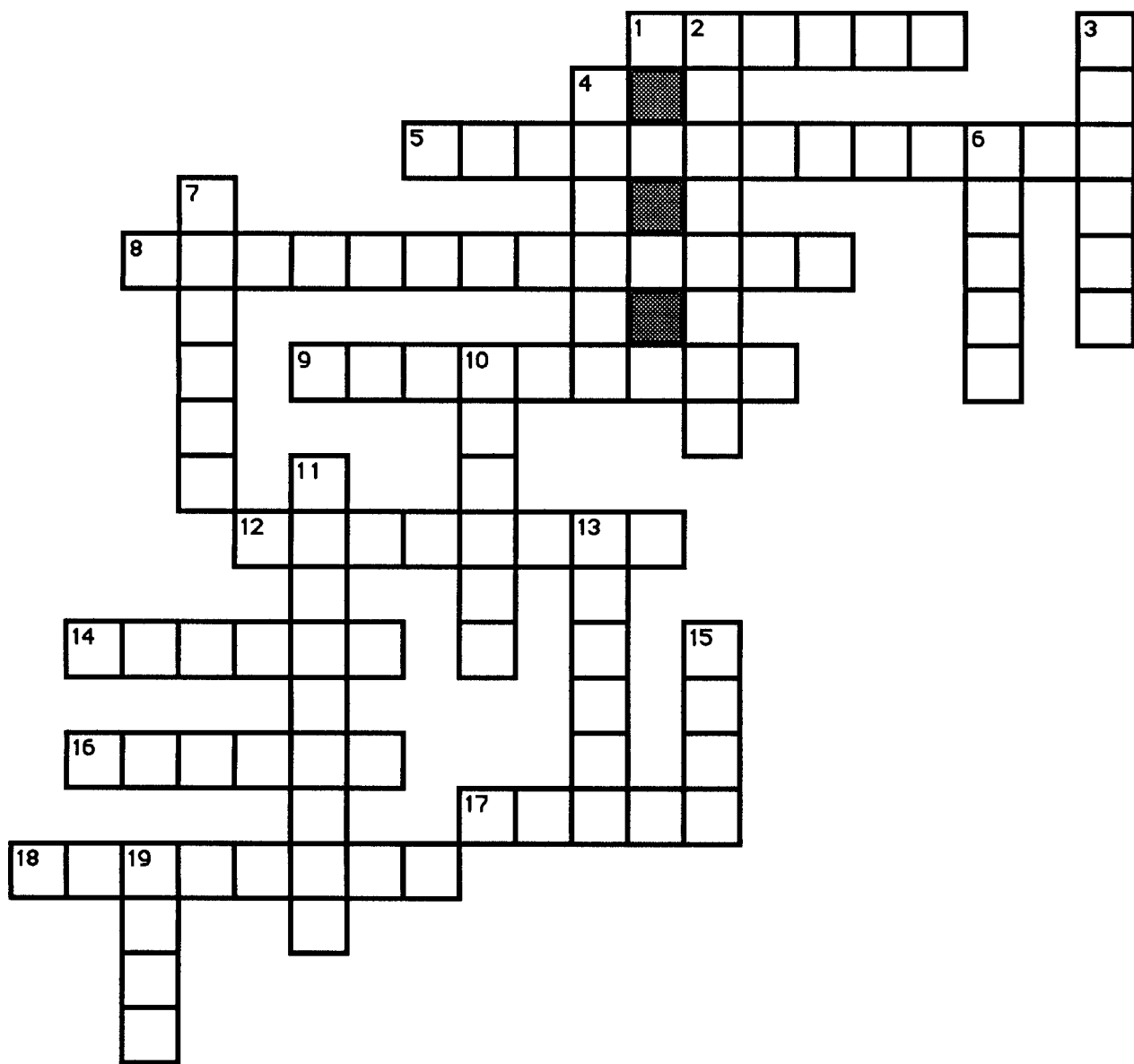
Famous pianist and singer. Most famous song "Ain't Misbehavin'."

Jelly Roll Morton

Famous jazz pianist.



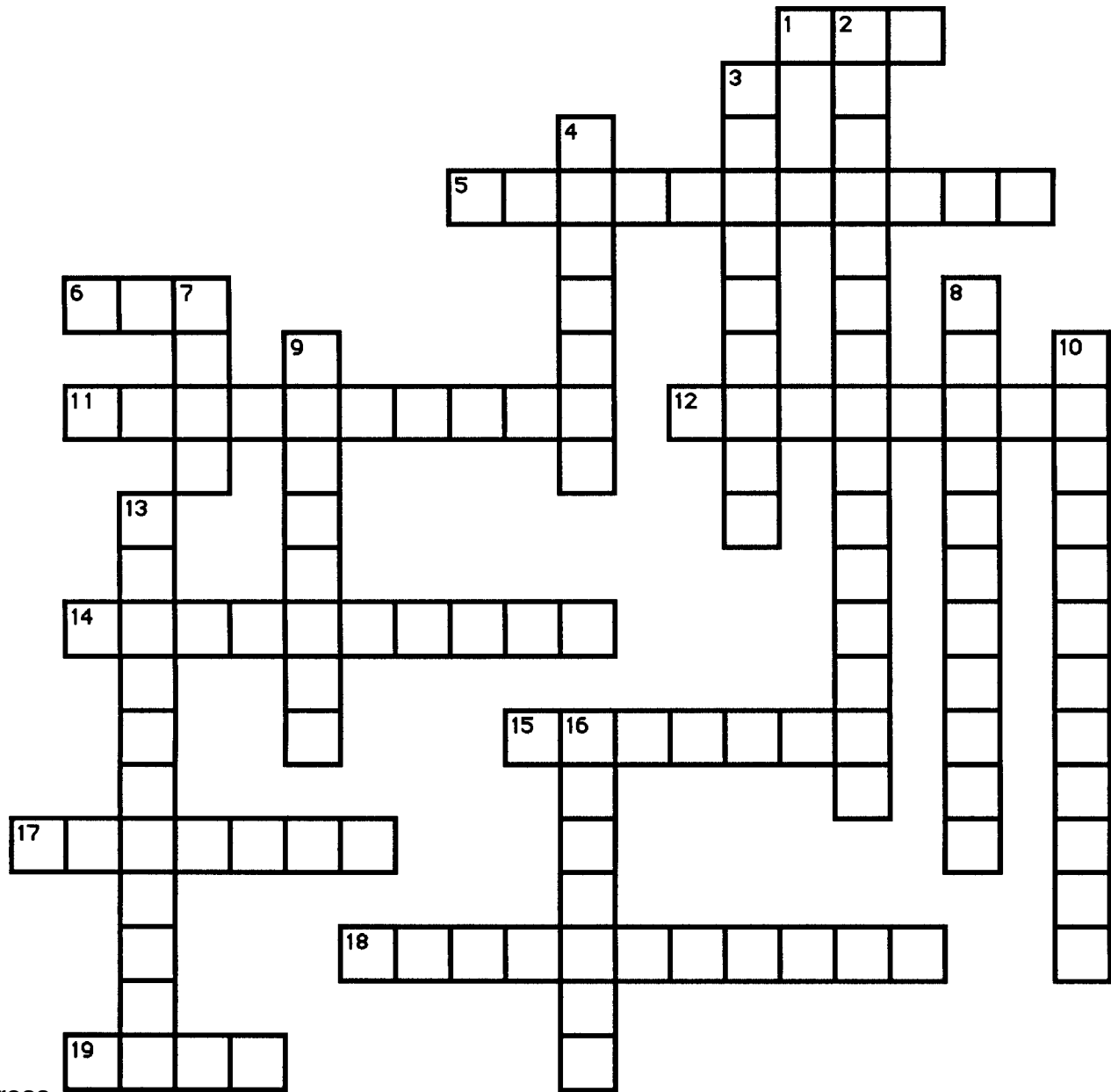
Fats Waller

**Across**

1. Tennessee teacher charged with teaching evolution.
5. Elected president in 1912 and 1916 (2 words).
8. Elected president in 1920 (2 words).
9. First to fly Atlantic solo.
12. Famous home run hitter (2 words).
14. The "Gallopig Ghost."
16. Elected president in 1928.
17. Famous golfer.
18. Sacco and _____ were executed for robbery.

Down

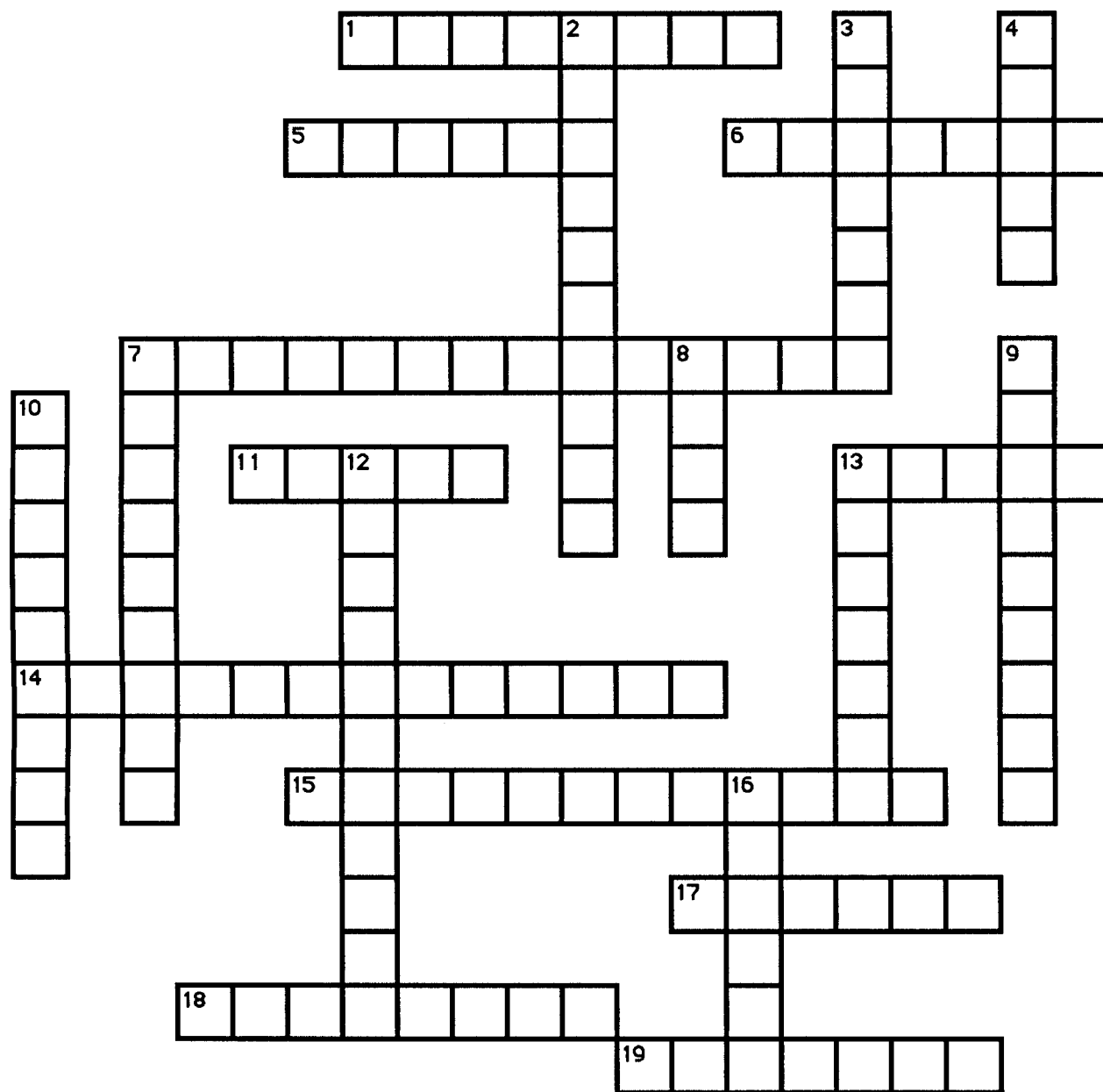
2. Became president when Harding died.
3. Billy _____, a famous evangelist.
4. Set a new record for swimming the English Channel.
6. The "Happy Warrior."
7. Famous Chicago gangster.
10. Famous defense attorney.
11. Attorney General for Harding and suspected crook.
13. Famous tennis player.
15. _____ Moran, a Chicago gangster.
19. Special agent who fought bootleggers in Chicago.

**Across**

1. Reconstruction Finance Corporation (abbr.)
5. The law that enforced prohibition (2 words).
6. Ku Klux Klan (abbr.)
11. A government scandal (2 words).
12. Farmers organized to pressure Congress (2 words).
14. A person who makes and sells illegal whiskey.
15. What the Twenties were called (2 words).
17. A nickname for a car.
18. Raised tariffs after the Depression started (2 words).
19. United Negro Improvement Association (abbr.)

Down

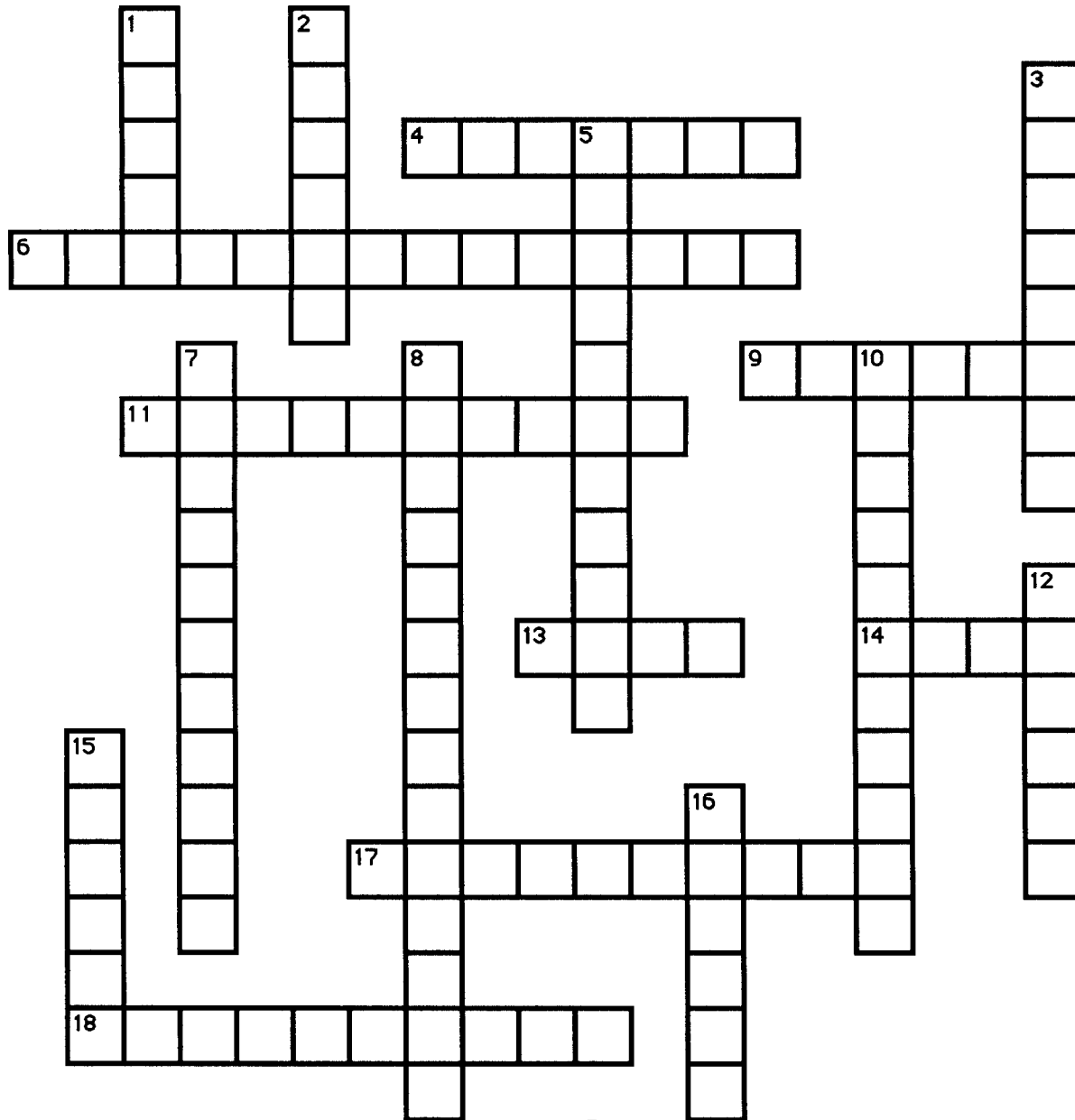
2. Raised tariffs at the beginning of the Twenties (2 words).
3. An illegal bar.
4. A liberated woman of the Twenties.
7. A big political force in the early Twenties. Hated minorities.
8. Government raids on radicals (2 words).
9. What Harding wanted for the Twenties.
10. Farmers wanted this to boost farm prices (2 words).
13. Banning the sale and manufacture of alcoholic drinks.
16. A new art style of the Twenties (2 words).

**Across**

1. Mary _____, a movie star.
5. Frank Lloyd _____, an architect.
6. Gloria _____, a movie star.
7. Famous composer.
11. Sinclair _____, author of *Main Street*.
13. Rudolph Valentino's most famous role.
14. Famous female painter (2 words).
15. Famous poet (2 words).
17. Eugene _____, famous playwright.
18. The "It Girl," a famous movie star (2 words).
19. Famous art deco architect who designed the Chrysler Building (2 words).

Down

2. F. Scott _____, famous novelist.
3. The "Little Tramp."
4. Robert _____, a famous poet.
7. Painted *American Gothic* (2 words).
8. Designed Rockefeller Center.
9. Douglas _____, a movie star.
10. Wrote *The Sun Also Rises*.
12. Famous woman novelist (2 words).
13. Famous photographer.
16. Thomas Hart _____, a famous painter.

**Across**

4. Louis Armstrong's nickname.
 6. Famous dancer who became the rage of Paris (2 words).
 9. The center of the African American Renaissance.
 11. Famous jazz pianist (2 words).
 13. A new style of music that developed in the 1920's.
 14. _____ Ellington.
 17. Wrote *Shuffle Along* (2 words).
 18. The city where jazz started (2 words).

Down

1. A type of music sung by African Americans.
 2. Richard _____ wrote *Native Son*.
 3. Arna _____, a writer.
 5. African American poet who wrote *If We Must Die* (2 words).
 7. Famous singer and actor (2 words).
 8. Wrote *The Negro Speaks of Rivers* (2 words).
 10. First African American to sing with a symphony (2 words).
 12. _____ Smith, famous blues singer.
 15. Countee _____, famous Harlem poet.
 16. King _____ brought jazz to Chicago.

1920's Questions: Viewpoints 1920's

Directions

Read both viewpoints on the following pages and answer the questions below.

General questions for both viewpoints

1. Which Viewpoint argues that the Twenties was a positive time?
2. What evidence or arguments are used to indicate that the Twenties was positive time?
3. Which Viewpoint is critical of the Twenties?
4. What evidence or arguments are used to indicate that the Twenties was not a positive time?
5. What facts are mentioned in the favorable Viewpoint that are not mentioned in the unfavorable Viewpoint?
6. What facts are mentioned in the unfavorable Viewpoint that are not mentioned in the favorable Viewpoint?
7. Are there any opinions and facts which are agreed upon by both Viewpoints? If any, what are they?

Factual statements and generalizations

Which statements are statements of fact and which are generalizations? Mark (F) for facts and (G) for generalizations.

- 1._____There was much prejudice during the Twenties.
- 2._____The KKK increased in size during the Twenties.
- 3._____Factory workers did not enjoy the prosperity of the Twenties.

4._____There was much corruption during the Twenties.

5._____Jazz developed in the Twenties.

6._____Many small farmers gave up farming.

7._____Radios and movies became popular during the Twenties.

8._____The stockmarket crash started the Depression.

9._____Gershwin was a famous composer in the Twenties.

10._____Union membership declined during the 1920's.

Viewpoint A author's biases and assumptions

Which statements would the author of Viewpoint A agree with? Mark an (A) for those that you think the author would agree with and a (D) for those you think the author would disagree with. Use (CT) if you can't tell.

- 1._____People should not speak against the government.
- 2._____Big business ran the government.
- 3._____All people should enjoy prosperity.
- 4._____It was unfair for the government to put radicals in jail.
- 5._____There was little free speech during the Twenties.

The patriotic propaganda of World War I and the attacks upon the people who protested the war continued after the war. Big business and politicians saw this as a way of eliminating radicals. It was Socialists and IWW labor leaders who opposed the war. They also posed a threat to businesses who continued to exploit workers. The communist revolution in Russia added fuel to the desire by business to destroy those who favored better treatment for workers.

States passed "criminal syndicalism" laws to jail those who "advocated the overthrowing of the U.S. government." In New York a Republican legislator, Clayton R. Lusk, conducted illegal raids against the Soviet embassy, the Rand School of Social Research and the IWW. Lusk turned out to be a crook. The investigators he hired with state money had to split their salaries with him. He went to jail.

During 1919-1920 thirty-two states passed criminal syndicalism laws. The laws were used to jail any person who spoke against the U.S. government. The U.S. Attorney General, A. Mitchell Palmer, created a General Intelligence Division to root out radicals. The division was headed by J. Edgar Hoover.

Since many of the radicals were foreign born, it was decided to arrest and deport them. Palmer declared that communists were going to overthrow the government on July 4, 1919. His department, in cooperation with police, began to arrest thousands of radicals across the country. In November in New York 600 aliens were arrested. In December 249 more were arrested and hustled aboard a boat bound for Europe. In January, 2,000 more were arrested. The Palmer raids virtually destroyed the Socialist Party and the IWW in the United States.

The 1920's are thought of as the "Roaring Twenties" and the "Jazz Age." Capitalist propagandists describe it as a time of prosperity for the average person. While many new consumer products entered the market – refrigerators, radios and cars, for example – a large part of the

U.S. population could not enjoy them. One of the most poverty stricken groups was farmers.

Farmers enjoyed prosperity during World War I. After the war farm prices dropped and stayed depressed during the entire decade. Meanwhile prices of farm equipment and other goods increased. Farmers found it very difficult to make a living. Many small farmers had to give up farming and move to the cities.

Factory workers also did not enjoy the prosperity of the 1920's. Radical unions such as the I.W.W. had been smashed at the end of World War I. The AFL was not interested in organizing factory workers so the wages of industrial workers remained low throughout the decade, and workers did not have any legal protections. Union membership declined throughout the decade.

While the needs of farmers and workers were ignored by the Republican administrations of the 20's, corruption was rife. Albert Fall, Harding's Secretary of the Interior, took bribes in selling U.S. government oil leases to private interests. The head of the Veterans' Administration also took bribes. Many local government officials were also crooked. Dishonesty was widespread. Even the leader of the Ku Klux Klan, an organization that claimed to promote morality, was convicted of rape and murder.

The Ku Klux Klan enjoyed a revival during the 1920's and became a powerful influence in the midwest. The KKK directed its hatred against foreigners, Catholics, radicals and Jews as well as blacks. The Klan was influential in encouraging conservative, anti-labor politicians.

Many Americans were caught up in the get-rich mania of the 1920's. Increasing numbers played the stockmarket which continued to rise to new heights in the 1920's. In October 1929 the bubble burst. The stockmarket crashed and the economy began to spiral downward as factories closed and unemployment increased.

After World War I and the turmoil of the first two decades of the 20th Century people wanted a return to “normalcy.” The election of 1920 was an overwhelming Republican victory. The Republican candidate was a handsome newspaper editor from Ohio, Warren Harding. Harding believed that Americans wanted the government to leave them alone.

After World War I life was much improved for most American people. Government regulation of agriculture, industry and railroads was now a reality. The American people had protection against the abuses of monopoly.

The standard of living of Americans improved dramatically. Between 1921 and 1928 the average annual wage grew from \$1,171 to \$1,408. New consumer goods came on the market. People could now buy cars, refrigerators, and radios. The prices of many consumer goods dropped so that they became affordable to the average person. The average price of an American car was \$2,123 in 1907. By 1924 a Model T could be bought for \$240. Many, for the first time, could buy houses as subdivisions began to spring up around large cities.

The mass media also began to flourish during the 1920's. The first commercial radio station, KDKA in Pittsburgh, began operating in 1920. In six years there were 732 stations. Between 1921 and 1929 the sales of radio equipment skyrocketed from \$13,000 to \$338 million. Motion pictures also became increasingly popular. In 1929 there were 100 million paid admissions a week.

American business flourished during the 1920's and for the first time average Americans began to buy stock. The idea of “democratic capitalism” was born. Corporations, instead of being owned by a few wealthy people, were now owned by millions of Americans.

Modern American culture was shaped during the 1920's. Women began to smoke and use nail polish. Many of the major brand names and new products appeared: Kellogg's corn flakes, Birdseye frozen foods, and Frigidaire

refrigerators. These products provided more leisure time and helped free women from the kitchen.

Sports became a popular pastime both to play and watch. Golf courses were constructed across the nation as millions began to play the sport for the first time. Tennis also became a popular sport. Spectator sports also increased in popularity as colleges built huge football stadiums. Sports stars became popular heroes. In boxing it was Jack Dempsey and Gene Tunney; in golf, Bobby Jones; in tennis, Bill Tilden; in baseball, Babe Ruth. Women, enjoying their new freedom, also became sports stars. Gertrude Ederle swam the English Channel in record-setting time and Helen Wills dominated tennis.

The arts also flourished. A number of new American authors began to publish. Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Thornton Wilder, William Faulkner, Thomas Wolfe, Willa Cather and Edna Ferber wrote many books that were to become American classics. George Gershwin wrote his best music during the 20's, and a new type of music emerged, jazz. Most of the jazz greats, Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, Johnny Hodges, Benny Goodman, Teddy Wilson, and Count Basie began playing the 20's. Many of the jazz musicians were black and their emergence reflected the improved position of African Americans in the United States.

During World War I many blacks had moved to northern cities to find work. In New York they lived in Harlem. It was in Harlem during the 1920's that the Black Renaissance took place. Many black writers, such as Langston Hughes and James Weldon Johnson, began to publish. Singers, actors and dancers such as Paul Robeson and Josephine Baker became stars to white audiences as well as black.

The hallmark of the 1920's was a higher standard of living for most Americans, more freedom for women, who received the right to vote in 1919, and a flourishing of the arts.

1920's Questions: Viewpoints Harding

Directions

Read both viewpoints on the following pages and answer the questions below.

General questions for both viewpoints

1. Which Viewpoint favors Warren Harding?
2. What evidence or arguments are used to indicate Harding was a good president?
3. Which Viewpoint is critical of Harding?
4. What evidence or arguments are used to indicate Harding was not a good president?
5. What facts are mentioned in the favorable Viewpoint that are not mentioned in the unfavorable Viewpoint?
6. What facts are mentioned in the unfavorable Viewpoint that are not mentioned in the favorable Viewpoint?
7. Are there any opinions and facts which are agreed upon by both Viewpoints? If any, what are they?

Factual statements and generalizations

Which statements are statements of fact and which are generalizations? Mark (F) for facts and (G) for generalizations.

1. _____ Harding was not very successful in dealing with the farm problem.
2. _____ Farmers suffered during the Twenties.
3. _____ Albert Fall was convicted of taking a bribe.
4. _____ Harding's appointments were not all bad.

5. _____ Herbert Hoover was Secretary of Commerce.

Viewpoint A author's biases and assumptions

Which statements would the author of Viewpoint A agree with? Mark an (A) for those that you think the author would agree with and a (D) for those you think the author would disagree with. Use (CT) if you can't tell.

1. _____ Harding was not a good president.
2. _____ Harding has a bad reputation because of some of his appointees.
3. _____ Harding was most successful in his foreign policy.
4. _____ Harding did not do well in dealing with the problems of farmers.
5. _____ Harding was a tolerant person.

Fact and Opinion

Which statements are statements of fact and which are opinions? Mark (F) for facts and (O) for opinions. Opinions are value judgements which cannot be proven.

1. _____ Harding was not up to the complexities of the presidency.
2. _____ Some of Harding's appointees were crooks.
3. _____ High tariffs can reduce exports as well as imports.
4. _____ Harding was pro-business.
5. _____ Harding was a newspaper editor in private life.

Warren Harding was elected in 1920. He died in 1923 of a cerebral hemorrhage. Some said he was poisoned. Others said he died of a broken heart. His short administration was tarnished by corruption.

Warren Harding was elected when people wanted to heal the wounds caused by the war and forget about the hardships caused by the war. Harding was the perfect president. He was not pro-business or anti-labor. He was a kind and gentle man.

The Democratic Wilson administration had taken a harsh position against radicals who opposed the war. It put many in jail, including the Socialist leader Eugene Debs. Harding released all the political prisoners jailed by Wilson. He did not agree with their views but thought they were treated unfairly.

It is true that a number of his political appointees were crooked. There is no evidence that Harding was involved in any dishonest activity.

Harding was most successful in foreign policy. When he took office there were American troops in Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic. This tarnished America's reputation. He brought the troops home from Cuba and the Dominican Republic. He also brought the U.S. soldiers occupying Germany home. He failed to withdraw the soldiers from Haiti.

Harding also tried to improve relations with the Allies and Germany by negotiating a reduction in the debts they owed the United States and found impossible to pay. The reparations that the Allies were trying to force the Germans to pay for the damage they caused during the war were particularly hard on the German people. Harding tried to persuade the Allies to be more generous in their treatment of the Germans. Harding had a strong sense of fairness and kindness to all people, even those he disagreed with.

Harding went to the rescue of the Russians when starvation struck their country in 1921. Even though they were communists

Harding persuaded Congress to set aside political differences and contribute \$20 million to food relief.

Harding was a leader in promoting world peace. He called for the Washington Disarmament Conference in 1921 in which the major countries of the world agreed to limit the number of battleships. He was a strong advocate of the U.S. joining the World Court.

Harding's appointments were not all bad. While H.M. Daugherty and A.B. Fall were crooks, Harding's Secretary of State, Charles Evans Hughes, and Secretary of Commerce, Herbert Hoover, could not have been better.

Harding was victimized by a woman, Nan Britton, who claimed to have been his mistress and had a daughter by Harding. Her book, *The President's Daughter*, about this affair was published four years after his death and offered no evidence that it was true. Many were willing to believe it simply because of the corruption of other officials in the Harding administration.

Harding was a hardworking president beginning work at 7 A.M. The pressures of office and the corruption of some of his appointees began to take its toll on his health. Doctors ordered a vacation. However, Republican Party bosses turned the vacation trip into a campaign trip. Harding, exhausted by a 3,000 mile trip across country, making five speeches a day, died in San Francisco.

Harding was incompetent. He was chosen by the Republicans in a "smoke-filled" room at the Republican National Convention because he "looked like a president." Harding was an editor of a small newspaper in Marion, Ohio. Later he was elected to the U.S. Senate. The Republican Convention in 1920 was deadlocked in its attempt to choose a nominee for president. Republican political bosses selected Harding.

Harding surrounded himself with friends from Ohio who viewed the presidency as an opportunity to line their own pockets. The "Ohio Gang" became famous for taking bribes in return for government favors.

Harding's Attorney General Harry Daugherty was leader in the corruption that permeated Harding's government. Daugherty and his friend Jess Smith operated out of a house on K Street in Washington. The house was a place to buy government favors. Pardons and appointments to government offices were bought and sold.

The most notorious crook was Charlie Forbes who was appointed to head the newly created Veterans Bureau. Forbes bought huge amounts of supplies from manufacturers. He received bribes from the contractors for the purchases. He then sold the supplies as government surplus receiving more bribes. Forbes later resigned and his successor, Charles Cramer committed suicide when the U.S. Senate announced that it was going to investigate the Bureau.

Albert Fall, Harding's Secretary of the Interior, was the most famous crook of them all. Fall, a rancher and oil prospector from New Mexico, sold U.S. government oil reserves to friends Henry Sinclair and Edward Doheny. In return he received a \$100,000 bribe.

Harding liked to play poker twice a week with Daugherty, Forbes, Smith, Sinclair, Fall and others. Harding and his friends liked to drink whiskey even though Prohibition made liquor illegal. Harding was also a "womanizer." He had a mistress and fathered a daughter by her.

Harding was basically a small town politician and was not up to the complexities of the presidency.

His accomplishments as president were due to the two competent people he did appoint, Charles Evans Hughes and Herbert Hoover. Hoover, the Secretary of Commerce, took charge of the war debt problem and provided food relief to starving Russians. Charles Evans Hughes was effective as Secretary of State withdrawing troops from several Latin American countries and organizing the Washington Disarmament Conference in 1921.

Harding's success in dealing with domestic problems was less successful. Farmers faced disaster after the war as the price of farm commodities dropped. Cotton, for example dropped from 40 cents a pound to 10 cents. Farmers were forced into bankruptcy. The Harding administration did little to help the situation. Congress passed the Fordney-McCumber Tariff Act which increased protective taxes on farm imports and other goods. This did not have much effect on the price of farm products. It reduced imports by 40% but also reduced exports by 40% as other countries raised their tariffs. Farmers suffered from government neglect throughout the 20's.

The scandals of the Harding administration also continued long after his death. Albert Fall was eventually convicted for taking the \$100,000 bribe. Harry Daugherty was also put on trial for taking bribes. During the trial it was revealed that he managed to save \$75,000 a year on his \$12,000 salary as Attorney General. He was found innocent.

The Republican presidents of the 1920's continued the pattern of Harding, leaving business alone, ignoring the needs of farmers and working people. As long as the stockmarket boomed and there was an appearance of prosperity, the government did little until the stock-market crash in 1929.

Directions

Write a news story using the facts below. Write the story using the inverted pyramid. Decide which facts are the most important and put them at the beginning of the story. Place the least important facts at the end of the story. You may combine facts into one sentence and you may rewrite sentences.

Write the story in a journalistic style. Put no more than five sentences in a paragraph and limit the sentences to 20 words or less.

- š Jim Colosimo was murdered on May 11, 1920.
- š Colosimo divorced his wife in March 1920.
- š His wife's name was Victoria.
- š Colosimo owned a restaurant.
- š It was said that Colosimo killed 12 men.
- š Colosimo, after divorcing his wife, married singer Dale Winter.
- š Colosimo was involved in the illegal rackets of prostitution and bootlegging.
- š His nickname was "Big Jim."
- š Colosimo liked music, especially opera.
- š Colosimo was a friend of Enrico Caruso, the famous opera star.
- š Colosimo gave his ex-wife \$50,000.
- š John Torrio inherited Colosimo's rackets.
- š Some suspect that Colosimo was killed because John Torrio wanted to take over his rackets.
- š His new wife refused to accept his inheritance.
- š Colosimo had a funeral that cost \$50,000.
- š Some suspect that Colosimo was killed because he divorced his first wife; that this showed that he was disloyal.

Directions

Write a news story using the facts below. Write the story using the inverted pyramid. Decide which facts are the most important and put them at the beginning of the story. Place the least important facts at the end of the story. You may combine facts into one sentence and you may rewrite sentences.

Write the story in a journalistic style. Put no more than five sentences in a paragraph and limit the sentences to 20 words or less.

- š Aimee Semple McPherson was a missionary evangelist trying to convert people to the Christian faith.
- š She used faith to heal people.
- š Her church was called the Four-Square Gospel.
- š She built a very successful following and a large church in Los Angeles.
- š She built the Angelus Temple in Los Angeles. It cost \$1.5 million.
- š The Angelus Temple could seat 5,000 people.
- š The Angelus Temple had a \$75,000 radio station.
- š In the Spring of 1926 Aimee Semple McPherson disappeared.
- š Some thought she drowned because she went to the beach the day she disappeared.
- š On June 23, 1926, Aimee re-appeared in Douglas, Arizona.
- š Aimee said that she had been kidnapped and taken to a town in Mexico.
- š She said that she escaped and walked 13 miles through the desert.
- š Some suspected she was lying because her shoes and dress did not show any signs of wear-and-tear from walking through the desert.
- š Kenneth Ormiston, a radio operator at the Temple, disappeared at the same time that Aimee did.
- š Ormiston was married.
- š The Los Angeles District Attorney had discovered that Ormiston had checked in and out of a number of hotels with a blonde woman who looked like Aimee.
- š Aimee issued a public appeal asking that Ormiston show up and clear her name.

Directions

Write a news story using the facts below. Write the story using the inverted pyramid. Decide which facts are the most important and put them at the beginning of the story. Place the least important facts at the end of the story. You may combine facts into one sentence and you may rewrite sentences.

Write the story in a journalistic style. Put no more than five sentences in a paragraph and limit the sentences to 20 words or less.

- § Charles Lindbergh was a mail plane pilot flying from St. Louis to Chicago.
- § He was 24 years old. He didn't drink or smoke.
- § The Atlantic Ocean was first flown by two Englishmen, Alcock and Brown in 1919. They used a twin engine plane.
- § Raymond Orteig, a French businessman, put up a prize of \$25,000 for the first to fly from New York to Paris.
- § Lindbergh left for France from Roosevelt Field on May 20, 1927.
- § It took 36 hours for Lindbergh to fly across the Atlantic.
- § Lindbergh was the first to fly from New York to Paris and the first to fly across the Atlantic alone.
- § Lindbergh's plane was called the *Spirit of St. Louis*.
- § He landed at Le Bourget airfield in Paris.
- § He was greeted by 100,000 people.
- § Lindbergh landed in Paris at 10:24 P.M. on May 21.



- § Lindbergh's plane was built by Ryan Aircraft of San Diego, California.
- § The plane was financed by a group of St. Louis, Missouri, businessmen.

Directions

Write a news story using the facts below. Write the story using the inverted pyramid. Decide which facts are the most important and put them at the beginning of the story. Place the least important facts at the end of the story. You may combine facts into one sentence and you may rewrite sentences.

Write the story in a journalistic style. Put no more than five sentences in a paragraph and limit the sentences to 20 words or less.



- š Rudolph Valentino was born in Castellaneta, Italy.
- š His real name was Rodolpho Alfonzo Raffaeli Pierre Filibert di Valentina d'Antonguolla.
- š When he first came to the U.S. he worked as a gardener.
- š He was discovered for the movies by June Mathis, a script writer.
- š He became a movie extra.
- š His first starring role was in the *Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*.
- š He divorced actress Jean Acker in 1922.
- š His role in *The Sheik* made him famous as a romantic movie star.
- š He married Natacha Rambova after his divorce from Acker.
- š He died August 23, 1926.
- š Doctors operated for an inflamed appendix and discovered two perforated gastric ulcers.
- š In time he developed pleurisy, pneumonia, and peritonitis.
- š Valentino was one of the top movie stars of the twenties.

Directions

Write a news story using the facts below. Write the story using the inverted pyramid. Decide which facts are the most important and put them at the beginning of the story. Place the least important facts at the end of the story. You may combine facts into one sentence and you may rewrite sentences.

Write the story in a journalistic style. Put no more than five sentences in a paragraph and limit the sentences to 20 words or less.



- š A payroll guard was killed in a holdup in Braintree Massachusetts in 1920.
- š Nicolo Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were arrested for the crime.
- š Many believed they were convicted because they were Italian immigrants and radicals.
- š In 1923 Celestino Madeiros, 22, confessed to being part of the gang that killed the bank guard.
- š Frank Morelli looked like Vanzetti.
- š The Sacco and Vanzetti Defense Committee wanted a new trial.
- š Judge Thayer heard the motion for a new trial based upon the Madeiros confession.
- š Thayer turned down the motion for a new trial.
- š Sacco and Vanzetti were scheduled to be executed on August 10, 1927.
- š Governor Alvin T. Fuller ordered a stay of execution for 12 days.
- š William G. Thompson was Sacco and Vanzetti's defense attorney.
- š The day Sacco and Vanzetti were executed the jail was surrounded by police and every government building was heavily guarded.
- š Sacco was executed first. He said "Long live anarchy."
- š Sacco and Vanzetti were anarchists and Italian immigrants. Sacco was a shoemaker and Vanzetti was a fish seller.

Directions

Write a news story using the facts below. Write the story using the inverted pyramid. Decide which facts are the most important and put them at the beginning of the story. Place the least important facts at the end of the story. You may combine facts into one sentence and you may rewrite sentences.

Write the story in a journalistic style. Put no more than five sentences in a paragraph and limit the sentences to 20 words or less.

- š The murders took place at 2122 N. Clark St., Chicago.
- š The murders took place on February 14, 1929, St. Valentine's Day.
- š Seven men were shot to death in a garage.
- š Five of the men were members of the Bugs Moran gang.
- š Five men arrived in a black touring car at the warehouse at 10:30 A.M.
- š Three of the men were dressed in police uniforms.
- š Sam Schneider, a tailor, saw the men leave the warehouse.
- š Seven men were shot and killed with machine guns.
- š The dead were Pete Gusenberg, James Clark, Adam Heyer and John May, all members of the Bugs Moran gang.
- š Also killed were Al Weinshank and Dr. Reinhart H. Schwimmer.
- š Frank Gusenberg was alive when police arrived.
- š Frank Gusenberg had 14 slugs in him.
- š When asked who did it, Frank Gusenberg said, "Coppers. It was coppers."
- š Sam Schneider saw the murderers leave.

Directions

Read the background information and the pro and con views. The issue is, should the government legislate morality? What do you think? Be sure to tell why.

Prohibition

The building of America created enormous thirsts. The construction of the factories and railroads was hard work. One half of the men who did it were bachelors. There were few other amusements so the saloon became the chief source of entertainment. Not only could workers get liquor, but there was also gambling and prostitution and quite often free food.

Wherever there were factories, mines and railroads, there were saloons. As the towns became more settled, there also came resistance to saloons. The most widespread was the Anti-Saloon League (ASL). The ASL was led by Wayne B. Wheeler. The ASL had its base in evangelical Protestant churches. There was also the Women's Christian Temperance Union, which had hundreds of thousands of members, and the Prohibition Party which was founded in 1896.

By the turn of the century science lent what had been a moral crusade a hand. Studies indicated that alcohol was a poison and could damage the kidneys, liver, and stomach.

Progressive politicians also wanted to control saloons. Saloons were a source of political corruption. Saloons could influence voting by giving away free drinks on election day.

Prohibition did not come about overnight. There were five states that banned alcohol by 1908 and 23 had banned it by 1914. For most Americans saloons had become a serious social problem. Working people wasted their paychecks in the saloons and neglected their families. Prostitution and venereal disease were a serious problem. Penicillin, the cure for syphilis, had not yet been discovered. The election of 1916 indicated that people wanted some form of prohibition.

Congress submitted the 18th Amendment to the states for ratification. It was approved in 1919. The 18th Amendment banned the sale, manufacture and transportation of alcohol. It was not a total prohibition. It did not outlaw the buying or drinking of alcohol.

Pro

Prohibition helped civilize the frontier. It banned the use of alcohol, and there were many problems associated with the use of alcohol. Men would squander their paychecks, leaving their wives and children destitute for weeks at a time. For some, violence accompanied drinking, further victimizing families. Gambling, prostitution and government corruption were associated with alcohol and saloons. Whiskey was used to bribe voters. Saloons often had gambling and prostitution. There was a great deal of crime in and around saloons. Banning the sale of whiskey helped clean up cities.

Prohibition worked. Alcoholism decreased. While a great deal has been made of the violence of the gangs in Chicago, this was actually atypical of the period. While the statistics kept on crime are either non-existent or sketchy, in all likelihood there was no increase in crime or actually a decrease in crime during the period of prohibition.

While prohibition ended in 1933 its spirit lives on in a variety of state laws that regulate the consumption alcoholic beverages.

Con

Prohibition was created by the effective political pressure of a minority of people. The Anti-Saloon League was made up of fundamentalist preachers and wealthy urban reformers. It was this group that managed to persuade enough states to pass the 18th Amendment. The war was also a significant factor. Many of the breweries were owned by Germans and as the U.S. entered the war against Germany, the U.S. government whipped up prejudice against Germans.

Prohibition was the most ignored law in American history. Many cities such as San Francisco made no effort to enforce it. The federal government did not put any money into enforcing it and many Congressmen disobeyed the law. In areas where it was enforced, citizens still ignored it.

People would not stop drinking. The demand for liquor was met by hoodlums who created large and wealthy empires. The most famous was Al Capone. Prohibition bred disrespect for the law, increased crime rates and gave rise to organized crime.

Directions

Read the background information and the pro and con views. The issue is, should the U.S. government prosecute those who advocate the overthrow of the government? What do you think? Be sure to tell why.

Palmer Raids

During the early 1920's there were many who wanted to change the capitalist system. Many of these people were aliens. They were not U.S. citizens. The U.S. moved to deport those who advocated the overthrow of the U.S. government.

Pro

The government has the right and duty to protect the citizens of the U.S. from foreign subversion. In the early 1920's the threat of overthrowing the U.S. government was real. While liberals describe the Palmer Raids of 1919 and 1920 as an attack on civil rights, they were totally justified under the circumstances.

The mayor of Seattle received a bomb in the mail. The U.S. Senator who chaired the committee on immigration received a mail bomb that blew off the hands of his maid who opened the package. In New York 22 bombs sent to leading industrialists were intercepted. The U.S. Attorney General had a large bomb explode on his front porch. A large bomb was set off on Wall St. killing 34 and injuring 200 in 1920. Anarchists were out to kill any person in the government who opposed them.

The raids on radicals have been given the name "Palmer Raids" after the U.S. Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer. Palmer has been made by liberal historians to seem a dictator. In reality, Palmer was even-handed. Palmer was a Quaker who refused the job of Secretary of War. He was hard-working and honest. He was fair and honest in protecting alien property seized during World War I. Palmer as Attorney General stood for fair treatment of radicals. One of his first acts as attorney general was to release 239 people held under the Espionage Act passed during World War I. He only began to attack radicals after the bombings of his house and those of other government officials.

Con

The raids upon radicals in 1919 and 1920 were the most serious abuse of federal power ever seen in American history. Thousands of people were beaten, jailed and deported, and their property seized without regard for the law. Attorney General Palmer decided that attacking radicals would help his effort to gain the presidential nomination in 1920. Palmer gained an appropriation from Congress to investigate radicals.

The legislation authorizing the Palmer raids did not allow that any home or meeting hall be searched or that any papers or property be seized. Such actions required a search warrant and a search warrant could only be obtained in a criminal action.

The Palmer raids paid no attention to the law. Houses and meeting halls were searched. Legal meetings were broken up and the people arrested. Papers and property were seized. People were beaten and held without charges in secrecy for days, weeks and even months.

Palmer used the deportation laws rather than courts of justice. The immigration laws were amended in 1918 to prevent radicals from entering the U.S. The Secretary of Labor, William B. Wilson, ruled that membership in a radical organization was grounds for deportation. Palmer deported hundreds under this interpretation of the law.

Directions

Read the background information and the pro and con views. The issue is should Herbert Hoover be blamed for the Depression? What do you think? Be sure to tell why.

The Depression

Herbert Hoover is often blamed for the Depression. Herbert Hoover took office in 1929. In October of 1929 the stockmarket crashed sending the economy into a downward spiral.

Pro

While Hoover did not create the depression, he did little to help the increasing numbers of unemployed. Hoover believed in the philosophy of helping the economy by using indirect aid. This meant providing money to the rich. The RFC provided loans to large corporations. In theory this was to help stimulate employment, but unemployment continued to climb. What was needed was public works projects to put people to work.

John Nance Garner and Senator Wagner introduced bills that would have provided \$3 billion for public works and build 1,000 new post offices. Hoover vetoed the bill. Congress passed a bill to provide \$300 million in loans to the poor. Hoover vetoed it.

When an "army" of World War I veterans descended upon Washington demanding payment of a "bonus" that was not due to be paid until 1945, Hoover ordered the U.S. Army to break up the bonus marchers' camp and drive them from the city.

Con

Hoover's response to the depression was to create the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. The purpose of the RFC was to provide loans to businesses to stay open. The RFC saved the American railroads and the American banking system. Before the RFC went into operation bank failures were running at 70 a week. Within three months the failure rate was down to two a month.

Hoover created the RFC to help cities, farms and factories. He provided for slum clearance in cities which would provide jobs, modernization of plants and farm improvements. Democrats in Congress, however, struck these provisions from the bill.

Hoover did increase public spending on public works. He spent \$1 billion a year on public works, a figure that was three times greater than the previous seven presidents combined.

To help people to keep their homes he created the Home Loan Mortgage Corporation. Congress took nine months to pass this legislation and by that time many people had lost their homes.

Hoover told Wall Street that they had better regulate themselves or he would do it for them. He proposed tax legislation that raised the taxes on the rich. When Congress, including Democrats, wanted to fire 10% of the federal employees and cut the salaries of the remainder by 10%, Hoover told them it was heartless.

1920's

Issues

Directions

Read the background information and the pro and con views. The issue is, how much should the government do to protect the nation's resources? Another issue is corruption. What should be done to a public official who takes a bribe? What do you think? Be sure to tell why.

Teapot Dome

A persistent problem in the 20th Century is how much the government should protect the country's resources from exploitation. Much of the land in the western U.S. is under the control of the Federal government. On government land are timber and mineral resources.

During the 1920's a question arose over allowing private oil companies to drill on protected oil lands owned by the U.S. government. These lands were set aside for oil reserves for the U.S. Navy. Navy ships at the time were powered by oil.

After months of investigation it was revealed that the Secretary of the Interior, Albert Fall, had taken bribes. The scandal was called the Teapot Dome scandal. One of the oil reserves located in Wyoming was called Teapot Dome. The other oil reserve involved in the scandal was the Elk Hills oil field in California.

Pro

Albert Fall defended his leasing of Teapot Dome and Elk Hills on the grounds that the oil was gradually seeping out of the reserves into nearby reserves that were not owned by the government. The drilling of wells on the reserves would allow the government to be paid for the oil. The government was not paid in cash but in oil certificates that could be used to buy oil from the private oil companies when the government needed it.

The resources under the control of the government should be used to benefit people. It does no one any good not to use the oil or cut the trees. The exploitation of these resources can stimulate business and provide jobs.

Con

The lease of government controlled resources to private interests leads to two things. First the resources are destroyed and can never be replaced. Second, the lease or sale of publicly owned resources encourages bribery and favoritism. The Teapot Dome is a primary example of this.

Ever since the national forest system was created in the 1870's the government has pursued a policy of multiple use. Trees have been cut, mines operated and cattle been allowed to graze. Unfortunately, this has led to environmental damage that should not be tolerated.

Directions

The 1920's saw the Ku Klux Klan rise to national prominence as a political force. It was particularly strong in the Midwest. The Klan appealed to those who did not like or understand the social changes they saw around them. The Klan blamed foreigners, Jews, radicals, Catholics and blacks for the evils of the world. The Klan's tactics were often brutal. Not everyone liked the Klan and bitter conflicts took place.

Using the information below, write a news story about the event. Use the inverted pyramid approach putting the important information first and the least important last. If you quote someone use quotation marks and identify the source. The events described below are fictional but typical of the time.

Interview with Police Chief Williams

Interviewer: Sheriff, what are you doing about the attack upon Reverend Croft?

Williams: We are conducting a thorough investigation.

Interviewer: Have you uncovered any suspects?

Williams: Not yet.

Interviewer: Reverend Croft says that he thinks the police department is involved in this.

Williams: I can say that I don't think any member of our department is involved in this.

Interviewer: Many people in the community think that there are several policemen in the Klan.

Williams: I don't know of any. We will conduct an investigation. That is all I can say.

**Interview with Reverend Croft**

Interviewer: What happened?

Croft: I was working in the church and there was a knock on the door. I opened it and there were six klansmen in their hoods. They grabbed me.

Interviewer: What did they do?

Croft: They tied me to a tree and whipped me. Then they burned KKK into my back.

Interviewer: Why did they do that?

Croft: I think because I've spoken out against the intolerance they represent.

Interviewer: Are you afraid they'll come back?

Croft: They said if I continued to preach, they'd do something worse.

Interviewer: Could you tell who they were?

Croft: I couldn't see their faces because of the hoods but I recognized one's voice. He's a policeman.

Interview with local Klan leader J.C. James

Interviewer: What do you have to say about the beating of Reverend Croft?

James: We don't need people in this town preaching race mongrelization.

Interviewer: You approve of his beating? He says the Klan did it.

James: Anybody can put on a hood. I don't know if klansmen did it. All I can say is that people are not going to put up with that kind of preaching.

Interviewer: Isn't it true that the Klan promotes hatred?

James: Let's face it. We didn't have any problems until we had all these foreigners moving to our town. Now we got crime. I'll tell you whose behind it. The big Jewish bankers bring these people in to work as cheap labor in the factories. They take jobs away from native Anglo-Saxon Americans. These foreigners will work for almost nothing.

.....
Interview with Ezra Stein, local businessman

Interviewer: You are urging people to fight the Klan?

Stein: That's right. We have formed the Committee for the Defense of Justice.

Interviewer: Don't you think that enforcing law and order is best left to the police department?

Stein: Not when a lot of policemen belong to the Klan. We need to protect ourselves.

Interviewer: What are you recommending?

Stein: We have set up armed defense squads to protect people like Reverend Croft.

.....
Report from the Committee for the Defense of Justice

The Klan is nothing more than a money making scheme based upon hatred. Salesmen called kleagles in Klan-talk sell memberships in the Klan. The salesmen keep \$4 of the initiation fee called a klecktoken. The other \$4 goes to the public relations firm, Southern Publicity Association, that hired the salesmen. \$2 goes to William Simmons, the Imperial Wizard of the Klan.

The salesmen are instructed to play upon the prejudices and hatreds of people to get members. They tell people that all the problems are caused by foreigners, Catholics and Jews.

Local Klaverns are lawless. They commit brutal atrocities against anyone who speaks out against them. In Oklahoma in one year they flogged 2,500 people. The Klan will try to take over local government by electing Klansmen to office.

We cannot allow the Klan to get a foothold in our community. They must be fought.

.....
Klan Political Pamphlet

Americans! Rise up against immorality! Against race-mongrelization! Against Jewish bankers who are only interested in making money. Our town did not have any problems until all these foreigners began to come. The Catholics and Jews are trying to take over.

Whenever a Catholic has a baby they bury a gun and fifty rounds of ammunition under the Church. They are just waiting for the day the Pope gives the order to take over. We must stop them.

Look around you! You see bars, prostitution and gambling in our city. We must clean this out, and it is all because of these foreigners that have moved here.

Social Facts

	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990
Homicides (per 100,000)	6.8	8.8	6.3	5.3	4.7	8.3		
Suicides (per 100,000)	10.2	15.6	14.4	11.4	10.6	11.6		
Lynchings	61	21	5	2	0	0		
Percent below poverty level						12.6		
Labor force (ratio)								
Male	4	3.7	3	5	49	27		
Female	1	1	1	2	23	16		
Social welfare (billions)		\$4.09	\$8.80	\$23.51	\$52.3	\$145.9		
Public education (billions)	\$1.04	\$2.32	\$2.34	\$5.84	\$15.6	\$40.7		
College degrees								
Male	32,000	73,600	109,000	328,000	253,000	484,000		
Female	17,000	48,800	77,000	103,000	157,000	343,000		
Doctorates								
Male	522	1,946	2,861	6,969	8,801	22,890		
Female	93	353	429	714	1,028	3,976		
Attendance								
Movies (weekly/millions)	33	90	80	60	40	18		
Baseball (yearly/millions)	9.3	10.2	10.0	17.6	20.3	28.9		
Average Income	\$1,236	\$1,368	\$1,299	\$2,992	\$4,743	\$7,564		

Activities

1. What trends do you see in the role of women in society? How do you account for this?
2. How do you account for the downturn in movie attendance in the sixties?

3. Look at the population figures below and determine the per capita expenditures on education and welfare for each decade.
4. Research the figures for 1980 and 1990. Do the trends still hold?

Population and Health Facts

	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990
Population (millions)	106.5	123.2	132.1	149.2	177.8	204.9		
Urban/Rural (ratio)								
Urban	54	69	74	16	125	149		
Rural	52	54	57	9	54	54		
Farm (%)	30	24.6	23.2	15.3	8.7	4.8		
Life Expectancy								
Male	53.6	58.1	60.8	65.6	66.6	67.1		
Female	54.6	61.6	68.2	71.1	73.1	74.8		
Births (per 1,000)	27.7	21.3	19.4	24.1	23.7	18.4		
Marriages (per 1,000)	12.0	9.2	12.1	11.1	8.5	10.6		
Divorces (per 1,000)	1.6	1.6	2.0	2.6	2.2	3.5		
Deaths (per 1,000)	13.0	11.3	12.1	9.6	9.5	9.5		

Activities

1. What are the general trends in farm population?
2. What are the trends in female and male life expectancy? How do you account for the growing difference between the two?

3. What are the trends in the marriage and birth rates? How do you account for the unevenness in these trends?
4. Make a line graph showing one or more of the statistics.

Directions

Below is a series of statements about the 1920's. There are four types of statements. 1. True facts which are well-documented. 2. Arguable facts which are not well-documented but can be proven true or false with further research. 3. Purely opinion which are statements judging the facts. 4. Mixed fact and opinion in which the facts are interpreted with a person's opinion. Decide which statements are factual and which are opinions. Mark an F for truly factual statements, AF for an arguable fact, O for opinion and FO for statements that contain an interpreted fact.

1. ____ Harding was a poor excuse for a president.
2. ____ The 1920's was a period of corruption.
3. ____ The 1920's was a period of corruption because prohibition created gangsters and encouraged disrespect for the law.
4. ____ Harding was a crook.
5. ____ Workers and farmers did not prosper during the 1920's.
6. ____ The 1920's was a prosperous time for America.
7. ____ Roosevelt introduced the welfare system.
8. ____ Welfare makes people lazy.
9. ____ Coolidge did little as president.
10. ____ Harding appointed many crooks to public office.
11. ____ Republicans did not believe that business should be regulated.
12. ____ Hoover was widely respected for his competence and honesty.
13. ____ Many people blame Hoover for the Depression.
14. ____ Harding withdrew troops that were located in several Latin American countries.
15. ____ Harding was a kind, just man.
16. ____ People in the 1920's were not interested in social causes such as the poor.
17. ____ Women made advances during the 1920's in politics and employment.
18. ____ The Ku Klux Klan was very powerful in the 1920's.
19. ____ The American people participated more in sports during the 1920's because they had more money and more leisure time.
20. ____ America's standard of living dramatically improved because of expanded use of electricity, the radio, the car and many other conveniences.
21. ____ The government should not try to legislate morality like prohibition because it doesn't work.
22. ____ Prohibition was wrong.
23. ____ George Gershwin wrote his best music during the 1920's.
24. ____ George Gershwin was the greatest American composer.
25. ____ George Gershwin was a famous composer.

Directions

Below is a series of statements. Select the statement that you think is most precise in each group.

Group 1

- A. There was much corruption in government.
- B. There was much corruption in the Harding Administration.
- C. Several Harding appointees were arrested for corruption.
- D. Republican administrations are always corrupt.

Group 2

- A. George Gershwin wrote his best music in the Twenties.
- B. Gershwin was a great composer.
- C. Gershwin wrote *Rhapsody in Blue*.
- D. Gershwin wrote many great musicals.

Group 3

- A. The 1920's was prosperous.
- B. People were better off than ever before.
- C. Average income grew by over \$300 in the Twenties.
- D. There were many new consumer goods on the market then.

Directions

From the statements below select the most general statement.

Group 1

- A. Republican administrations worked hard to bring about world peace.
- B. The Republicans encouraged world disarmament.
- C. The United States joined the World Court.
- D. A disarmament conference was held in Washington, D.C.

Directions

Write a general statement that is supported by all of the facts in each group.

Group 1

- A. Louis Armstrong became a famous jazz musician.
- B. Duke Ellington began his famous big jazz band.
- C. Langston Hughes wrote poems that became famous.
- D. Harlem became a center for black writers and musicians.

Group 2

- A. The price of a car dropped from \$2,100 in 1907 to \$240 in 1924.
- B. In 1920 there was 1 radio station and in 1927 there were 732.
- C. Average income went up from \$1,200 to \$1,400.
- D. Electric refrigerators became popular.

Group 3

- A. Congress passed a law restricting immigration.
- B. Radical unions like the IWW were put out of business.
- C. The KKK became powerful.
- D. Race riots against blacks took place.

Directions

Emotional words are used to influence how people think about events. They also are used to distort reality. Select what you think might be the emotional words in each of the statements below.

1. Harding was a kind and gentle man.
2. The Republican administrations of the Twenties were reactionary.
3. Working people suffered during the Twenties.
4. Harding was victimized by his friends and a woman making unfounded accusations.