

Roaring 20's Presentation Topic Focus Questions

Directions: Complete this packet of questions based on the in-class presentations, our discussion, and the use of your textbook reading.

The Red Scare (p. 393 – 394)

1. What is communism? What aspects of communism did Americans especially fear?
2. During the Red Scare, what were people in America afraid of? Why was it called the “Red” scare?
3. Who was A. Mitchell Palmer? What were the Palmer raids? What happened to the people involved?

Trial of Sacco and Vanzetti (p. 395 – 396)

1. Who were Sacco and Vanzetti? What were they accused of?
2. How did Sacco and Vanzetti’s status as immigrants contribute to them being feared, arrested, and executed? Was there a lot of evidence to support the charges against Sacco and Vanzetti?
3. What does it mean to say that Sacco and Vanzetti were anarchists?

Music in the “Jazz Age” (p. 430 – 431)

1. Identify at least 3 forms of dance that became popular during the 1920’s.
2. What was Jazz music? How was it different from traditional music before the 1920’s?
3. Who were the major figures in Jazz and entertainment during the 1920’s? What were they known for?

Changing View of Women (p. 399-400; p.423)

1. Describe some of the trends in clothing and dress during the 1920’s.
2. What was a flapper? In what way were flappers rebellious?
3. How did flappers challenge society’s traditional ideas about how women should act? How did society react to flappers?

Transportation (p. 414 – 419; p. 427)

1. Who was Charles Lindbergh? What were his accomplishments and how did those accomplishments make him a hero for so many people during the 1920's?
2. Explain what mass production and the assembly line are. How did Henry Ford's use of the assembly line and mass production help to make cars affordable?
3. How did the availability of the car contribute to the wild spirit of the 1920's?

Literature of the Lost Generation (p. 435)

1. Who were some famous members of the Lost Generation? Give examples of their work.
2. Why were these writers called the Lost Generation?
3. What was the connection between WWI and the writing style of the Lost Generation?

The Harlem Renaissance (p. 432 – 434)

1. What was the Harlem Renaissance? Identify a few of the artists from the Harlem Renaissance.
2. What was the connection between the Harlem Renaissance and African American migration north during the 1920's?
3. What were some of the themes or messages from the Harlem Renaissance? Give some examples.

The Scopes Trial (p. 428 – 429)

1. What was the subject of the Scopes Monkey Trial?
2. What were the arguments presented by each side at the trial? What was the outcome of the trial?
3. How did the Scopes Monkey Trial represent the cultural conflict within America during the 1920's? How did it represent the conflict between science and religion?

Organized Crime (p. 422 - 423)

1. What were the Prohibition amendment and the Volstead Act? What did each do?
2. What were underground bars and “speakeasies”? How did the “speakeasies” get their name?
3. How did organized crime and gangsters like Al Capone profit from prohibition? What was the Valentine’s Day massacre?

Baseball’s Golden Age (p. 426)

1. Why was baseball so important in the 1920’s?
2. Who was Babe Ruth? What was he famous for? In what way did Babe Ruth represent the spirit of the 1920’s?
3. What were the Negro Leagues? Why did Negro Leagues exist? In what way did baseball represent the segregation and racism that still existed during the 1920’s?

Harding and Coolidge Administrations (p. 400 – 401)

1. Explain what the Teapot Dome scandal was. What did the members of Harding’s government do wrong?
2. Why was Harding blamed for the Teapot Dome scandal?
3. How was Calvin Coolidge’s approach to the presidency different than Harding’s?

Consumerism (p. 420 – 421)

1. Identify some of the new consumer goods of the 1920’s. How did these goods affect every day life?
2. What is credit? Why did many people buy the new consumer goods of the 1920’s on credit? What were some negatives of everyone buying on credit?
3. How did marketing and advertising increase consumer demand?

Labor Unrest (p. 390 – 393)

1. What were the reasons for labor unrest?
2. How did strikes affect public opinion of labor unions?
3. What tactics did both sides use during strikes in the 1920’s?