The Roaring Twenties (1919 – 1929)
Why was this decade called the “Roaring Twenties”? It was a time of rapid economic growth, prosperity and optimism.

What was going well?
- War was over!
- People becoming more independent, especially women. By 1920, they have gained the right to vote (19th Amendment).
- More than half of the nation’s population lived in urban areas and had modern conveniences, like electricity.
- More Americans than ever, including women, attended college.
- Lots of new freedoms, new dances, new music and new cars.

What was not going well?
- In 1918, a great influenza epidemic struck, killing more than 500,000 people.
- 4.5 million soldiers returning needs jobs, but most industries are cutting production and jobs now that was is over.
- People are tired of making sacrifices for war. They want a RETURN TO NORMALCY.

- The GREAT MIGRATION occurred. During and after the war, thousands of African Americans moved north to look for work. As they did so, many whites feared competition for housing and jobs. This led to racial tension and riots throughout the country. The KKK played a prominent role in harassing blacks throughout the country.
- Now that the war was over, farmers continued to overproduce crops, which led to a decrease in prices and a rise in farmer’s debt.
- As factories became more automated, the need to unskilled workers declined. This led to a growing number of strikes by labor unions.
Xenophobia

After the War, unemployment and immigration both increased. Many Americans feared that immigrants were taking their jobs.

Increase in Xenophobia, the fear of hatred of foreigners. Increase in Nativism, the idea that immigration should be limited. Many Americans feared that

Emergency Quota Act (1921): law that limited the total immigration to 357,000 people a year & restricted the # of immigrants from Euro. Nations to 3% of that nationality’s population in the 1910 US census.

National Origins Act: Further reduced immigration, gave greater preference to northern Euro. Immigration, banned Japanese immigrants from the US.

KKK: Not just limited to harassing African Americans. Extended to oppose Catholics, Jews and foreigners. During the 1920s, it grew at an alarming rate.

Sacco-Venzetti Trial: Two Italian anarchists were charged with robbing a shoe factory and murdering a guard. Although there was no solid evidence and the trial was considered by many to be unfair, they were found guilty and executed. This trial epitomized the fear of immigration and communism.
The Red Scare
What was it?

A fear of radicals and communists in the US. People blamed communists for the waves of strikes among workers.

Why did it happen?

Some worried that the ideas of the Russian Revolution would come to the US. They thought it might be a threat to capitalism and democracy.

We didn’t want more immigrants or communists in the US, but what was our foreign policy?

Most Americans wanted to return to isolationism and to stay out of world affairs. They also pressured other governments for:

Demobilization: a return to military levels prior to the war

Disarmament: limits on military weapons. New treaties attempted to keep the size of militaries smaller.
The Social and Cultural Changes of the 1920s

1. The Harlem Renaissance & Jazz Age

Causes: Millions of African Americans moved to cities in the North to get jobs. Many moved to the section of Harlem in New York City.

Harlem Renaissance (describe): A rebirth of African American culture, which included great artistic accomplishment, especially in literature, dance, music and painting. The movement instilled an interest in African culture and pride in being African American.

Effects (Name some people associated with the Harlem Renaissance and what they are known for)

- Langston Hughes – Poetry
- Bessie Smith - Music
- Louis Armstrong – Music
- Duke Ellington - Music

2. Prohibition (Use your concept map to guide your notes.)

- 18th Amendment (1920) banned the sale or making of alcohol = Prohibition.
- Increased number of speakeasies (secret, illegal clubs that served alcohol).
- Increased number of bootleggers (people who smuggled alcohol into the US from Canada to Mexico).
- Increase in organized crime. In major cities, rival gangs fought to control the cities’ illegal liquor business.
- Increase in anti-prohibition feeling grew. 21st Amendment (1933) ended prohibition.
3. The Changing Culture

What new forms of entertainment became part of American culture?
- Magazines
- Jazz and dance
- Radio
- Movie Theaters
- Sports

How did the changing culture impact women?

Much of the new advertising targeted women with time-saving new appliances. More women than ever were going to college and into the workforce. Young women, known as flappers, used their freedom to challenge traditional dress and behavior.

4. Fundamentalism

Fundamentalism was a movement which taught that the Bible was free from error. It blamed society's changes and problems on the culture of urban areas.

Scopes Trial: Fundamentalists opposed Charles Darwin's Theory of Evolution. In 1925, a Tennessee law made it illegal to teach any theory other than creation. Later the same year, a teacher (John Scopes) was arrested for teaching evolution. This received a huge reaction from all over the country. In the end, he was convicted and fined $100. This was later overturned. The debate over evolution goes on…
## Business is Booming!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How was business changing during the 1920s?</th>
<th>How did Americans afford the new products?</th>
<th>What types of new products did they buy?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A boom in manufacturing led to many new products. New appliances were introduced. An increase in the amount of advertising. More use of the assembly line.</td>
<td><strong>Installment Plan:</strong> a payment system in which a buyer made a small initial payment and then made monthly payments until the debt was cleared. “Buy now, pay later!”</td>
<td>Automobiles (Model T) Washing machines Vacuum Cleaners Refrigerators Radios Fans</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Installment Plan:** A payment system in which a buyer made a small initial payment and then made monthly payments until the debt was cleared. “Buy now, pay later!”

**Advertisements:**
- 1920’s Waffle Iron Popcorn Maker and Toaster
- Temple Radio Directory
- Ad for General Electric refrigerator
- Ad for 1920’s Model T Ford

*Images courtesy of [The People's History](https://www.thepeoplehistory.com)*