

1920's Themed Magazine Project

8th Grade Social Studies

World War I barely affected America at home. After it was all said and done, President Harding was elected on a platform of getting the U.S. to “return to normalcy.” Throughout the twenties, we saw the nation’s wealth increase at an unprecedented rate, and people were spending money at a record pace!

Various issues in society changed or grew in new ways. Issues of the 1920s included:

- Development of new technology (i.e. the radio)
- New fashion, especially for women (flappers)
- Sports—men like Babe Ruth, Jack Dempsey, and Bobby Jones became stars; the 1927 Yankees are considered by many to be one of the best teams of all-time
- Music (ragtime and jazz)
- Prohibition of alcohol/bootleggers/speakeasies
- Increase in organized crime (Al Capone, among others)
- Impact of the automobile
- Inception of the motion picture (movies, and their stars—i.e. Charlie Chaplin)
- Charles Lindbergh’s Trans-Atlantic flight
- The “Lost Generation” of American authors/American literature
- New fads (i.e. pole sitting, dance marathons, etc...)
- Clashing interests of a new, secular era and old, traditional cultural values
- African American culture (i.e. the Harlem Renaissance)
- New slang words
- Politics—the “Red Scare” (Sacco and Vanzetti trial and a “return to normalcy” after WWI)
- Urbanism—movement of people into cities
- Nativism and immigration—The K.K.K. comes back with a vengeance, with many congressmen and government administrators as members; new immigration laws were passed to keep select groups out of the country

...and many, many more!

Your task for this unit is quite simple in theory, and at the same time, complex in its construction. For this particular chapter's project, you will be required to make a magazine that informs the reader of the issues that occurred in the 1920s. Your final product will consist of 2 parts—the magazine, either in hard copy or digital format, and its presentation to the class. The magazine itself needs to have the following format:

- **Cover Page**—could include a preview of a lead story, picture, title of the magazine, editors & contributors, and a date
- **Table of Contents**—should probably be created last after you know everything in the magazine and page numbers
- **Four feature or news articles**—Each group member should be responsible for one article. They can be about any significant event, trend, or development of the 1920s. The page on which the article was written should be formatted like a magazine—therefore, you should not have any real blank space on the page. You can wrap the article around pictures or advertisements (possibly find some pictures from the 1920s) to fill the space. Remember, however, you will be graded on the content of these articles.
- **Bibliography**—Make sure to include your sources and cite them at the end. This should be the final page of the magazine.

You must also include **three** of the following four “extra pieces” in your magazine. They should also fit your magazines audience—i.e. if you do a sports magazine, you probably don't want to have information on women's makeup.

- **A graphic**—map, chart, or something else that fits within the context of your magazine. It must have a caption explaining it as well.
- **Advertisement**—by a private organization or the government. You can copy the image, but the text describing it must be in your own words. Again, make sure that the ads suit the audience of the magazine.
- **Letter to the Editor**—on a controversial issue.
- **Political Cartoon**—can be created or copied.

Your magazine can be in any format! Either one from the 1920s or modeled after one from today, as long as the content is related to the issues of the day. Magazine formats to consider could include, but are not limited to:

- Time
- Newsweek
- Sports Illustrated
- Life
- Entertainment Weekly
- People
- Forbes
- Rolling Stone
- ...and tons more!