

Summary: The Roaring Twenties

Technology Changes Lives

During World War I, many Americans moved to cities. They worked in factories or other businesses. Technology changed American lives. Many people bought cars. Electricity made people's lives easier. It made doing household chores easier and gave people more free time.

A Changing Society

During the 1920s or the "Roaring Twenties," women did things they did not do before. They worked outside their homes. They went to college and played sports. Most important, they won the right to vote.

Jazz began among African Americans in the South. Harlem, a neighborhood in New York City, was famous for jazz, art, and literature.

America's first radio broadcast was in 1920. Soon many families owned radios. Families sat together and listened to news reports, music, sports, and comedy shows. In 1927, people watched the first movie with sound.

In the 1920s, aviators began to fly long distances. In 1927, Charles Lindbergh flew the first solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean. Amelia Earhart and Bessie Coleman were famous aviators who inspired many women.

Problems of the 1920s

In the 1920s, a group called the Ku Klux Klan spread hatred and prejudice against African Americans and other groups. Klan members attacked and sometimes killed people they thought were "un-American."

In 1917, the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution was ratified. It made selling and drinking alcohol against the law. This was called Prohibition. Criminals made and sold alcohol. Illegal activities led to violence. In 1933, the government ended Prohibition.

After World War I ended, the Allies did not need American crops. Some farmers could not earn enough to pay back money they borrowed. Many had to sell their farms.

Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

broadcast *noun*, a program sent out over a radio or television station

aviator *noun*, a person who flies an airplane

prohibition *noun*, the act of forbidding something

After You Read

REVIEW What were two ways women's lives changed during the 1920s? Circle three sentences that tell about things women did.

REVIEW What kinds of radio programs did people listen to during the 1920s? Highlight the sentence that tells you the answer.

REVIEW Why was Prohibition repealed? Highlight the sentences that tell you the answer.