

# 1920s Radio Show

Creating an Audacity podcast  
to describe life in the 1920s



# Essential Questions

Unit Focus:  
What influences  
do economic  
excesses have  
on American  
society?

Unit Focus:  
What is the  
proper role of the  
government in  
people's lives?

Unit Focus:  
What happens  
when  
traditional and  
modern cultures  
interact?

**Activity  
Focus: What  
impact does  
my historical  
event have on  
the 1920s?**

Unit Focus: Did  
America move  
closer to or  
further away  
from its founding  
ideals during the  
interwar period?

# GOAL

A red hockey goal is positioned on an ice rink. The goal has a white net and a red frame. The background shows the rink's boards and a dark structure above. The word 'GOAL' is written in large, bold, yellow capital letters across the top of the image.

Can you answer  
your topic's focus  
questions with  
specific, factual  
information?

# Podcasting a Radio Show About the 1920s

This activity is designed to have you use a popular communication medium of the time period (a radio program) to gain a deeper understanding of one aspect of the time period.

You will also listen to your classmates' radio broadcasts to learn about and decide if this time period deserves the name: The Roaring Twenties.

# Directions

- 1. Mr. Kelly/Ms. Reid distributes historical topics/events to the class.
- 2. Research the topic, using Noodletools to cite your sources. Include at least four sources.
- 3. Create a script for your radio show 3 to 5 minutes in length.
- 4. Rehearse for your podcast.
- 5. Create your podcast.
- 6. Save your podcast.

# Possible Historical Topics/Events

- Airplane Innovation
- Baseball's Golden Age
- Changing View of Women
- Consumerism
- The Great Migration
- Harding Administration Scandals
- The Harlem Renaissance
- Labor Unrest
- Literature of the Lost Generation
- Music in the Jazz Age
- Organized Crime
- Postwar Peace Attempts
- The Red Scare
- Rise of the Automobile
- The Scopes Trial
- Trial of Sacco and Vanzetti

# Research

- As you research, make sure you define all important terms and have an understanding of the significance of your topic as it relates to the 1920s.
- Include citations of any source you use. This includes written and audio.

# Script

- Decide on an appropriate format for your show.
- Write a 3-5 minutes script. Use proper script form. This will need to be handed in to Mr. Kelly/ Ms. Reid.
- Include:
  - An introduction that includes your topic, a title, and each person's first name only
  - Answers to all questions listed for your topic
  - A thorough understanding of your topic



# Show Format

- News broadcast
- Interview with a witness
- Commercial
- Comedy routine
- Audio of a live event
- Political Speech
- Drama
- Mystery
- You may think of your own format. Get teacher approval first.

# Script Form

- Name, date and period in top left corner.
- Title at the top, center
- Each time a different character speaks, start a new line, write the character name, underline it and follow it with a colon. Babe Ruth:
- All sound effects should be in parenthesis and italicized. (*bat hitting a ball*)
- Works cited stapled at the end of the script.

# Rehearse for Your Podcast

- Practice pronunciations and ask Mr. Kelly/Ms. Reid for help.
- Rehearse timing and sound effects.
- You only get one chance to do it live. If you need another shot at it or want to edit it, you have the following options:
  - Resource
  - Lunch
  - After school
  - At home- Remember, the software is free!

# Saving Your Podcast

- You need to save your Podcast twice to My Documents:
- Go to File: Save Project As
  - Title it in the following way: MsR(your period)(your initials)topic
  - Example for Joe Smith in period 2: MSR2JSAirplaneInnovation
  - Do not include any spaces.
- Go to File: Export as WAV
  - Use the same name as above.
  - Edit ID Tags

# Airplane Innovation

- Include the following in your radio program:
  1. Who was Charles Lindbergh? What did Charles Lindbergh do to become famous in the 1920s?
  2. Why was Charles Lindbergh a hero for so many people during the 1920s?
  3. How did Lindbergh's accomplishment represent the adventurous spirit of the 1920s?
  4. What tragic event is Lindbergh also famous for?
  5. In what way were Lindbergh's political views in the 1930s and 1940s controversial?

# Baseball's Golden Age

- Include the following in your radio program:
  1. Why was baseball so important in the 1920s?
  2. Who was Babe Ruth? What was he famous for? In what way did Babe Ruth represent the spirit of the 1920s?
  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 1920s?
  4. Who was Satchel Paige? What famous African American baseball players played in the Negro leagues?
  5. How and when did African Americans finally get the chance to play Major League Baseball? Who was the first African American player to play MLB?

# Changing View of Women

- Include the following in your radio program:
  1. Describe some of the trends in clothing and dress during the 1920s.
  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?
  4. What is a feminist? Did flappers represent an early form of feminism?

# Consumerism

- Include the following in your radio program:
  1. Identify some of the new consumer goods of the 1920s. How did these goods affect every day life?
  2. What is a durable good? Why are durable goods usually expensive? Which of the new consumer goods are considered durable goods?
  3. What is credit? Why did many people buy the new consumer goods of the 1920s on credit?
  4. How did buying on credit make it seem like both people and businesses had more money than they actually did?



# The Great Migration

- Include the following in your radio program:
  1. What was the African American Migration?
  2. What factors caused African American to leave the south and move north?
  3. What did African Americans hope to find in the North?
  4. Did African Americans find exactly what they hoped to find in northern cities?
  5. How did the population of northern cities change as a result of the African American Migration?

# Harding Administration Scandals

- Include the following in your radio program:
  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. Why were the people Harding brought into the government called the "Ohio Gang"? What did the term mean (other than that they were from Ohio!)?
  4. How was the Ohio Gang and the Teapot Dome Scandal an example of government corruption?

# The Harlem Renaissance

- Include the following in your radio program:
  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 1920s?
  3. What were some of the themes or messages from the Harlem Renaissance?
  4. Discuss a sample story or poem from the Harlem Renaissance and explain how its theme or message is a good example of the Harlem Renaissance.

# Labor Unrest

- Include the following in your radio program:
  1. What were the reasons for labor unrest?
  2. What was the Boston Police Strike? How was it resolved?
  3. What tactics did both sides use during the Steel Mill Strike? How was it resolved?
  4. What were the results of the Coal Miners' Strike?
  5. Why was there a decline of labor membership in the 1920s?

# Literature of the Lost Generation

- Include the following in your radio program:
  1. Who were some famous members of the Lost Generation?
  2. Why were these writers called the Lost Generation?
  3. What was the connection between WWI and the writing style of the lost generation?
  4. Describe a sample story or poem from a lost generation author and explain how the story or verse is a good example of the themes of the lost generation.

# Music in the Jazz Age

- Include the following in your radio program:
  1. Identify at least 3 forms of dance that became popular during the 1920s.
  2. What was Jazz music? How was it different from traditional music before the 1920s?
  3. Who were the major figures in Jazz and entertainment during the 1920s? What were they known for?
  4. In what way did these new forms of dance and music represent the rebellious spirit of the 1920s?

# Organized Crime

- Include the following in your radio program:
  1. What was the Prohibition amendment? What did it do?
  2. What was the Volstead Act? What did it do?
  3. What were underground bars and "speakeasies"? How did the "speakeasies" get their name?
  4. How did organized crime and gangsters like Al Capone profit from prohibition?
  5. What was the Valentine's Day massacre? How is it a good example of the violence caused by prohibition?
  6. When and how was prohibition repealed?

# Postwar Peace Attempts

- Include the following in your radio program:
  1. What was the Washington Naval Conference? Was it successful?
  2. What was the Fordney-McCumber Tariff? How did it affect the different countries involved?
  3. What was the Dawes Plan?
  4. What were the long term results of these actions?



# The Red Scare

- Include the following in your radio program:
  1. What was/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?
  4. In what way did the Russian Revolution and the Bolshevik takeover in Russia lead to a panic about Communism in America (the Red Scare)?
  5. Were people's Constitutional right violated by the Palmer raids and during the Red scare period?
  6. Why were unions and union leaders particularly focused on with the Palmer raids? Why were unions often associated with communism?

# Rise of the Automobile

- Include the following in your radio program:
  1. What did the early cars look like? When were they first introduced?
  2. Explain the influence of Henry Ford and the Model T. How did Ford's cars help to greatly increase the sales of cars in the 1920s?
  3. Explain what mass production and the assembly line are. How did these concepts help to make cars affordable?
  4. How did the availability of the car contribute to the wild spirit of the 1920s? How did the car give young people freedom from their parents?

# The Scopes Trial

- Include the following in your radio program:
  1. What was the subject of the Scopes Monkey Trial?
  2. What were the arguments presented by each side at the trial?
  3. What was the outcome of the trial?
  4. How did the Scopes Monkey Trial represent the cultural conflict within America during the 1920s? How did it represent the conflict between science and religion?
  5. Is the subject of the trial still an issue in America today? Explain.

# Trial of Sacco and Vanzetti

- Include the following in your radio program:
  1. Who were Nicola Sacco and Batrolomeo Vanzetti? What were they accused of?
  2. How did Sacco and Vanzetti's status as immigrants contribute to them being feared, arrested, and executed? What does it mean to say that Sacco and Vanzetti were anarchists? What is an anarchist? Did they have a right to be anarchists?
  3. Was there a lot of evidence to support the charges against Sacco and Vanzetti? Why were they convicted or executed?
  4. What is the connection between the arrest and conviction of Sacco and Vanzetti and the Red Scare?