

Your Name: _____

Unit 4: Boom and Bust Syllabus and Study Guide

The fourth unit of American History 2 examines the 1920s and 1930s through the lenses of Conflict, Modernism, Consumerism, and Depression.

Pacing 10 Days

Test on _____

Intro Directions: Read the story about 17 year old Charles Denby, who left the Jim Crow South in 1924 to go find better opportunities and freedom in the North as part of the Great Migration of 1915-1930. Over 1 million African Americans left the rural South for the urban North, expecting life to be, as Charles said, “like the Bible...milk and honey and pearly gates.” Then answer the prompt that follows:

When Charles reached Detroit, he realized he had locked the address of the boardinghouse in his trunk, and the trunk room wouldn't be open until the next day. So he and a friend spent the whole night walking through the city, knocking on doors, trying to find someone who knew the name written on the paper. House by house, the reality of the North set in: “One white woman said that our friends couldn't possibly live on her block because no colored lived on her end of thirtieth. We walked off her porch wondering why. We didn't want to believe in discrimination up North but it kept going around in our heads.”

The next day Charles rented a room and quickly found a factory job. His task was to shake out oil pans that fit under the motor of a car. He hated it: “Take a mold, knock it out, set it back. Over and over for nine, ten, eleven and twelve hours a day. The foreman would say, ‘Do it. If you can't do it there are plenty of men outside who will.’” Charles got paid five cents a pan and found out that his pay was quickly eaten up by the ten dollars a week he had to pay for room and board. Soon he quit thinking about buying his parents a house.

After being laid off several times, Charles ran out of money and headed back to Alabama. For a while it seemed good to be back. But then, shortly after arriving home, he went to the plantation store to help his mother buy groceries. The owner asked him a question and, not thinking, Charles answered “Yes” rather than “Yes, sir.” The man stormed out from behind the counter and confronted Charles. “Don't think just because you've been up north you can forget you were raised here,” he yelled. Charles mumbled an apology and walked out into the sunlight with his mother. He felt sick, but it had taught him a lesson. “I told my mother that I'd rather be in prison in Detroit than to be free in the South,” he wrote.

Where did Denby decide he would rather live? In your words, not his, explain why he made that choice:

I: Entertainment and Popular Culture

Essential Questions:

- A) How was popular culture changing for Americans during this decade?
B) Explain the emergence of the Harlem Renaissance and its effects for African Americans.
C) In what ways did the 1920s and 1930s Amendments affect popular culture?

Terms: Harlem Renaissance, Prohibition, 18th Amendment/19th amendment (effects on culture)
speakeasies, gangsters, flappers, Great Migration, Chicago Race Riots, radio, "talkies" The Jazz Singer, Al Jolson, Steamboat Willie, Sinclair Lewis, Marcus Garvey, Babe Ruth, Charles Lindbergh, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Zora Neale Hurston, ragtime, jazz, Langston Hughes, Model T Fords

Connection to Today:

How does the Harlem Renaissance still affect culture today?

II: Life During the Depression

Essential Questions:

- A) What challenges were faced by Americans in rural areas during the Depression?
B) What challenges were faced by Americans in urban areas during the Depression?
C) In what ways did President Hoover respond to the Great Depression?

Terms: Dust Bowl, over plowing, drought, soup kitchens, breadlines, Federal Home Loan Bank Act, Reconstruction Finance Corporation, Hoover Dam, Hoovervilles, "rugged individualism", Bonus Army, Bonus March, "direct relief", charity

Connection to Today:

1. What are current attitudes towards direct relief and other efforts by the government to help those living in poverty?
2. What are current attitudes towards direct relief and other efforts by the government to help those living in poverty?

III. President Roosevelt Tackles the Depression

Essential Questions:

- A) What attitudes and actions did President Roosevelt take to deal with the Depression?
B) How did various New Deal programs attempt to provide relief for rural and urban Americans?
C) In what ways was the New Deal effective in ending the Depression? (positive for and against)

Terms: "fireside chats", 100 Days, Emergency Banking Act, New Deal legislation (study chart you will fill out in class in full detail), criticisms of New Deal

Connection to Today:

1. What government programs today attempt to provide assistance to people living in poverty?
2. What New Deal programs still exist today?

III. A Booming Economy

Essential Questions:

- A) In what ways did Presidents of the 1920's encourage the growth of business?
B) How did advertising and credit fuel consumer spending in the 1920's?
C) What were some of the innovations of this era that fueled prosperity?

Terms: prosperity, economic "boom", Spindle top, Henry Ford, assembly line, California aqueduct, Warren G. Harding, Calvin Coolidge, laissez faire, "small government", unequal distribution of wealth, money supply, buying on credit, stock market, buying on margin, speculation, consumers vs. producers, debt

Connection to Today:

1. What industries and/or innovations of today signal an economic "boom"?

I: Causes of the Great Depression

Essential Questions:

- A) What factors on the part of consumers and producers led to the Great Depression?
B) What factors on the part of government, banking, and investing led to the Great Depression?
C) Explain how the money supply interacts with each sector to make the Depression worse?

Terms: money supply (5 sectors), investments, banking, consumers, producers, tariffs, overproduction, under consumption, inequality of wealth, speculation, credit, "on margin", "run on the banks", Federal Reserve (role in economy), interest rates, industry, agriculture, stock market, Black Tuesday, bank failures

Connection to Today:

- How do current factors in our economy continue the recession of the 2000's?