

## PROHIBITION



**Why was prohibition introduced?** Religious groups wanted prohibition as they thought people should be religious and attending church; women wanted prohibition- 'lips that touch liquor shall not touch ours'; businesses wanted prohibition; people also thought morals were suffering in America.

**What was prohibition?** Alcohol was banned from 1920-1933. The Volstead Act banned any alcohol over 0.5%. However, people continued to drink.

**What were the successes of prohibition?** Mixing of different groups in the speakeasies like women and black Americans; millions voluntarily gave up drinking alcohol.

**What were the failures of prohibition?** Led to gang violence as criminals produced moonshine. Gangsters and racketeers. Millions continued to drink; there was corruption in politics. The government even had to poison medicine containing alcohol.



## THE WALL STREET CRASH

**What are stocks and shares?** Investors can buy a stock or a share in a company. If companies make profits and are successful the value of stocks and shares will increase. Buying stocks and shares became very popular in 1920s America.

**What was the Wall Street Crash?** Happened in 1929. Stocks and shares became very popular and it seemed everyone was investing in companies. The prices of stocks and shares lost touch with the reality of the market and the share prices collapsed over the course of a few days. Investors lost everything and this was one of the causes of the Great Depression. An economic collapse spread around the world. 'When America sneezes the rest of the world catches a cold.'

## THE KKK



**Who were the KKK?** A white supremacy group first founded after the American civil war. Became popular among WASPs in the 1920s. The KKK is the Klu Klux Klan.

Who were the enemies of the KKK? Black Americans, Catholics, immigrants, Jews.

**What happened to KKK membership?** The KKK membership increased from around 100,000 in the early 1920s to over 5 million by 1925. By the end of the 1920s KKK membership declined after scandals rocked the movement like the David Curtis Stephenson case.

**Why were the KKK popular?** The KKK were more popular in the countryside than the cities. The KKK was in every state but especially the South. KKK membership increased as the USA saw increased immigration.

## YEAR 9 HISTORY: LIFE IN 1920s AMERICA

## THE GREAT DEPRESSION



**What caused the Great Depression?** Mass production led to an oversupply of goods that people no longer needed or had already bought. The Wall Street Crash caused a collapse in confidence and many Americans lost their investments. Banks did not want to lend money and people lost confidence and did not want to spend.

**What was the Great Depression?** An economic collapse that lasted for most of the 1930s. Over 14 million people were unemployed and poverty, unemployment and homelessness were common in many American cities. Some Americans moved great distances to try and find jobs.

**What were Hoovervilles?** Many homeless people built temporary shelters known as Hoovervilles. They were made out of corrugated iron or whatever materials were available. They were named after the President-Herbert Hoover

## FORD AND MASS PRODUCTION

**What is mass production?** Producing products-for example-cars in huge numbers. Design was standardised which allowed the company to buy raw materials at cheaper prices and pass on savings to the customer.

**What is an assembly line?** Cars like the Model T were produced on an assembly line. The workers did very simple jobs as the car passed down the assembly line. Ford paid his workers \$5 a day.

**What was the Model T?** A very rugged car that was the first mass produced car in America. Ford famously said 'You can have any colour as long as its black'. Over 15 million cars were made.

**Who was Henry Ford?** Born to immigrant parents. Started as a watchmaker and then moved into the car industry. Started making the Model T using mass production. Ford became a billionaire and was famous for his anti-semitic views.



Learn the facts in y that you made in the lesson which organises eg's into economic, political and social



## WHAT WAS LIFE LIKE FOR BLACK AMERICANS?







**What were the Jim Crow Laws?** Laws that kept America segregated and did not allow black Americans to use the same facilities as white Americans. There were also complicated literacy tests that stopped black Americans voting.

**What was a sharecropper?** A poor farmer who had to give a share of his crop to the land owner.

**How were black Americans discriminated against?** Black Americans were poorer than other Americans and did not have the same opportunities. Many black Americans left the South in what became the Great Migration and travelled north for better opportunities.

However, they did not find they had equal employment opportunity and often were paid half the wages as a white worker. The Harlem Renaissance describes a revival in black culture in Harlem, New York in the 1920s. The NAACP was founded to fight for equal rights for black Americans. Marcus Garvey founded the 'Back to Africa' movement and argued black Americans should return to Africa

### KEY INDIVIDUALS:

Person:	Key details:
 <p>Al Capone</p>	Famous 1920s gangster also known as Scarface. Made millions from selling illegal alcohol and other rackets in Chicago. Famously had his rivals killed in the 1929 St Valentine's Day massacre.
 <p>Henry Ford</p>	First businessman to use mass production to build the first mass produced car called the Model T Ford. Over 15 million were made. Famously said 'you can have any colour as long as its black'.
 <p>Marcus Garvey</p>	Founded the back to Africa movement arguing black Americans should return to Africa.
 <p>Herbert Hoover</p>	President 1929-33 during the Great Depression. Believed in voluntarism or self-help and said it was not the government's job to provide for people. Hoovervilles were named after him.
 <p>Bugs Moran</p>	Another famous prohibition gangster or racketeer. He was murdered by Al Capone's gang in the St Valentines Day Massacre
 <p>David Curtis Stephenson</p>	Leader of the KKK in Indiana. Virtually the whole state was under KKK control in the 1920s. His involvement in a rape scandal was one of the causes of the decline of the KKK.

### KEYWORDS:

Keyword:	Definition:
Anti-Saloon League	A organisation that campaigned for prohibition.
Great Depression	A term to describe the mass unemployment, hunger and homelessness of the 1930s.
Great Migration	Term to describe how many black Americans travelled north in the hope of finding better opportunities and less discrimination.
Jim Crow Laws	Name given to laws that discriminated against black Americans.
KKK	Klu Klux Klan. A white supremacist group that had over 5 million members in the 1920s. Claimed to stand up for American values.
Literacy Tests	Tests designed to make it impossible for black Americans to be able to vote.
Mass production	Systems used by Ford to mass produce his first car-the Model T Ford.
Model T	The first mass produced car.
Moonshine	Illegally made alcohol.
Prohibition	Period in American History from 1920-33 when alcohol was banned.
WASP	White Anglo Saxon Protestant.
Women's Christian Temperance Union	Also called the WCTU. Campaigned for prohibition. 'Lips that touch liquor shall not touch ours'.

### KNOWLEDGE CHECKER:

Required knowledge	R	A	G
What is prohibition and why prohibition was introduced			
The successes and failures of prohibition			
The role of Henry Ford and mass production			
The role of Al Capone			
The KKK			
The Wall Street Crash			
The Great Depression			
What was life like for black Americans?			