

Cooperative Learning Activity
Intolerance in the 1920's

Name

Hr.

Introduction: Among the many themes which characterize 1920's America is the theme of intolerance. After WWI, this nation worked hard to focus inward and return to the way things were before the war. Change, to many, was an unwelcome threat. Therefore, when the nation was faced with inevitable changes, panic and hysteria often followed, fueling some of the most extreme acts of intolerance in our history. This activity will acquaint you with several examples of intolerance from this period.

TOPIC: OVERVIEW

If you were called a RED, you were accused of being what?

When did the Red Scare take place?

What was happening in Russia that caused alarm in the U.S.? EXPLAIN

Why were the first 5 years after WWI considered a time of rising *intolerance*?

TOPIC: RED SCARE

What were the goals of the communists in terms of business, land and government?

Fear and panic spread across the U.S. after WW I. Give examples of these in the following areas.

→ Labor Unrest:

→ Race Riots:

→ Bomb Scares:

Who was A. Mitchell Palmer? Explain his methods for dealing with alleged communists.

Why did some lawyers believe that the Palmer Raids put the right of Free Speech in danger?

5. Opinion: Were the Palmer Raids fair? Why? or Why not?

TOPIC: "IMMIGRANTS"

1. What was the *quota* system?

2. How was the quota system unfair to immigrants coming from Southern & Eastern Europe?

3. Give four reasons why the U.S. decided to limit immigration in 1921?

4. How long was the quota system in effect?

5. What did the new immigration laws do?

6. Opinion: What impact did wartime propaganda have on U.S. attitudes towards immigrants?

TOPIC: SACCO & VANZETTI

1. What crime occurred on April 15, 1920?

2. Who was arrested for the crime?

3. Provide a background profile of these two individuals. (backgrounds, occupations, beliefs, etc.)

4. What was the sentence in this case?

5. Give three reasons why some felt the sentence was wrong?

6. What happened August 23, 1927?:

7. Opinion: In what ways does this case reflect the mood of intolerance in the 1920's?

TOPIC: "WOMEN'S VOTE"

Define *Suffrage*:

List three reasons why some were against Women's suffrage.

What almost prevented the Wyoming Territory from gaining statehood?

Summarize the political process that led to the passage of the 19th Amendment.

What occurred on August 26, 1920?

Who did most women vote for in their first ever presidential election?

Opinion: How would suffrage rights open the door to other gains for women?

TOPIC: "PROHIBITION"

What began on January 16, 1920? What does it mean?

How long did this "dry" period last?

Define/Describe:

→ "Wets" versus "Drys"

→ Bootleg

→Speakeasy

→Rumrunners

Although prohibition was an outgrowth of our intolerance towards the social problems associated with alcohol, its passage created new problems. Describe the problems that were created by prohibition in the United States.

Why did Democrats campaign to *repeal* prohibition in 1932?

What happened in February, 1933?

Opinion: What might have happened if prohibition had never been repealed?

TOPIC: “KKK”

1. What does *KKK* stand for?

2. What were the membership requirements?

3. Who were their 4 main targets of intolerance? (4 groups)
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

4. What were the KKK's scare tactics?

5. How powerful, in terms of numbers, did they become in the 1920's?
6. What caused the KKK to lose popularity during the late 1920's?
7. Give three reasons people were attracted the KKK.
8. Why were Catholics targeted by the KKK?
9. Opinion: Why do you think the KKK became so popular during the 1920's?

TOPIC: "THE SCOPES TRIAL"

What did *fundamentalists* believe in about the bible and the teaching of evolution?

What was the *Butler Act*?

Who was John Scopes and why was he arrested?

Name & provide a brief background of the two lawyers in this famous trial.

Defense:

(Scope's Lawyer)

Prosecution:

Why is Scopes trial sometimes referred to as the “Monkey Trial”?

What is the final outcome of the Scopes Trial? What happens to John Scopes?

What effect do the trial results have on fundamentalism?

Opinion: If John Scopes were teaching science today, would he face more intolerance toward his teaching the story of biblical creationism or evolutionary theory? Explain