

Chapter 10 – The 1920's and 1930's

EQ: *How did the economy grow after World War I in the 1920s?*

New technology changed how people lived:

Electricity: By the end of the 1920s, 70% of Americans had electricity, mostly in urban areas. New inventions that used electricity like vacuum cleaners and washing machines made life easier.

Assembly Lines: Before assembly lines, products were made one at a time. Created mass production, decrease cost of product.

Automobile Industry: Henry Ford used assembly line to make mass production of cars, which cost less and more people drove cars, other industries grew to make supplies for cars.

Aviation: After the Wright Brothers flew the first plane, aviation grew and improved. By 1927, Charles Lindbergh flew alone across the Atlantic Ocean.

Urban Growth: As more factories were built, people left rural areas for jobs in cities (urban areas)

EQ: *What cultural changes did the United States go through in the Roaring Twenties (1920s)?*

The Jazz Age: African Americans in the arts (musicians, singers, poetry) made traditions, popular.

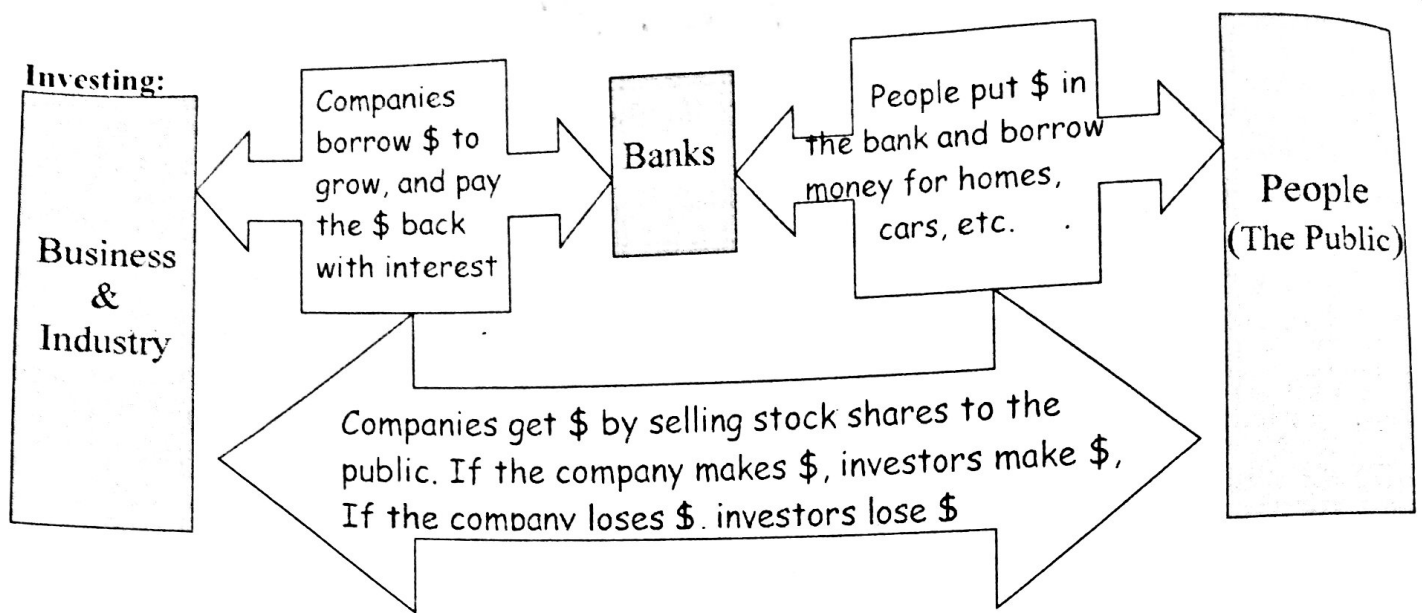
The Harlem Renaissance: Harlem, an African-American neighborhood in New York City, became the center of a creative arts movement, including musicians liked Ellington and Armstrong, and writers and poets, like Langston Hughes.

Sports: People enjoyed listening to sports broadcasts on the radio. One favorite athlete was Babe Ruth, the baseball player.

Economy

Industry: New technology led to more goods being produced. Factories hired more workers who used their money to buy many of these new products

Farmers: Many farmers had borrowed money to grow more crops during WWI, but after the war less crops were needed, and some lost their farms.



EQ: *How did the Great Depression affect the lives of Americans?*

Stock Market Crash: Stock prices had been rising; so people bought stock to make money. Some borrowed money from banks to buy stocks. When stock prices fell quickly, stockholders wanted to sell their stocks, but by then, almost no one was buying. When the stock market crashed, many banks couldn't get money back they had loaned out, so banks closed and people lost their money that was in the bank.

The Great Depression: People had less money to spend, so stores bought fewer goods. Since factories had fewer orders, they had to fire some workers. Unemployment (not having a job) increased, so people had even less money. Around 25% of Americans did not have jobs. The Depression lasted through the 1930's in the U.S. and other countries.

Soup Kitchens: Many churches and charities started soup kitchens where they gave out free food to poor people.

Dust Bowl: A severe drought hit the Great Plains. Little rain fell, crops could not grow and the winds blew dried up dirt around which caused dust storms. This caused many farmers to leave their farms to find jobs somewhere else.

Herbert Hoover: Hoover was president when the Depression began. Hoover thought government should not make big changes and let the economy improve on its own as it had in the past. He was blamed for not making things better. Shacks and tents were named "Hoovervilles".

EQ: *What athletes and authors helped Americans forget some of their struggles?*

Margaret Mitchell: A writer from Atlanta that wrote the book "Gone with the Wind" which was made into a popular movie

Jesse Owens: An African American track star who won four gold medals at the 1936 Olympics in Germany

EQ: *How did Franklin D. Roosevelt try to make life better for Americans?*

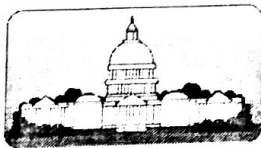
Franklin D. Roosevelt: Roosevelt, aka FDR, thought the government should do more to try to end the Depression. He used government to start many programs, using tax money to create jobs. Americans elected and reelected FDR 4 times because he gave them hope.

The New Deal: A series of government programs Franklin Roosevelt started to create jobs and help the poor during the Depression. The federal government had a bigger role in the economy than ever before.

New Deal Programs

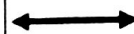
- **CCC** – Civilian Conservation Corps: Its goal was to create jobs and conserve (protect) the natural environment.
- **WPA** – Works Progress Administration - Created jobs by hiring men to build streets, libraries, hospitals, and schools
- **TVA** – Tennessee Valley Authority - Hired men to build dams on the Tennessee River. These dams created hydroelectricity for rural areas in the Southeast
- **Minimum Wage** – the lowest amount of money most workers can be paid. The minimum wage started during the Depression. The first minimum wage was 25 cents. (around \$7 now)

Government's role in using taxation to provide certain goods and services



Government provides goods and services such as schools, highways, bridges, street lights, military, police, courts, libraries, parks, etc.

People pay taxes for goods and services they receive from the government



Government passes laws

People benefit from laws that help and protect them

Important People of the 1920s and 1930s

Henry Ford

Charles Lindbergh

Louis Armstrong

Duke Ellington

Langston Hughes

Margaret Mitchell

Babe Ruth