Culture and Conflict

Trace the changes and tensions of the 1920s

SS24.US2.3 "Evaluate how key figures, events, and trends shaped United States society and culture from the conclusion of World War I through the 1920s. 3a Describe how the automobile, cinema, print media..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three ways people shared culture in the 1920s. Circle two causes of conflict, then number one cause and its effect in the passage.

A Decade of Shared Culture and Deep Divisions

1 In the 1920s, a family could drive to a movie theater, then hear a popular singer on the radio at home. More affordable cars expanded travel and created jobs in factories, road building, and service stations. Movies, radio programs, and widely circulated newspapers and magazines carried shared stories, advertisements, and fashions across regions. These industries employed workers and sold goods to an expanding middle class. Yet Black Americans and many rural families faced barriers to the prosperity that advertisements celebrated.

2 Artists shaped this shared culture while questioning its limits. Alabama-born W. C. Handy published blues music for wide audiences; blues influenced jazz in Harlem Renaissance clubs and beyond. Langston Hughes's poetry celebrated Black life and challenged stereotypes. The 1925 Scopes trial, over teaching evolution in Tennessee, exposed conflict over religion and science. The revived Ku Klux Klan promoted white supremacy and hatred of Catholics and Jews. Nativism targeted immigrants, while the Red Scare stoked fear of suspected radicals. A shared mass culture did not mean shared values.

3 During the Red Summer of 1919, white resentment over competition for jobs and housing, segregation, and racist rumors fed mob attacks on Black communities. In Chicago, a Black teenager's death and police inaction ignited violence. Attacks continued into the 1920s. In 1921, a white mob attacked Tulsa's prosperous Greenwood district after an accusation against a Black teenager, killing residents and destroying businesses. Prohibition banned alcohol sales to protect families, supporters argued. Opponents rejected the ban, while illegal bars and organized crime grew as many people defied it.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did cars and two forms of media help create both a shared culture and economic growth?

2. How did W. C. Handy's music and Langston Hughes's poetry shape culture in different ways?

3. How did the Scopes trial and the Red Scare reveal different kinds of social conflict?

4. What connected the violence of Red Summer to the Tulsa attack, and what happened in Greenwood?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write four or five sentences judging whether Prohibition brought the social change its supporters wanted. Use two details from the passage, and explain what the debate shows about conflicting values in the 1920s.

ANSWER KEY

Culture and Conflict

GRADE 11 · SS24.US2.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three ways people shared culture in the 1920s. Circle two causes of conflict, then number one cause and its effect in the passage. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did cars and two forms of media help create both a shared culture and economic growth?	**Cars expanded travel and created jobs. Movies and radio spread shared entertainment and advertising while employing workers and selling goods.**
2	How did W. C. Handy's music and Langston Hughes's poetry shape culture in different ways?	**Handy's blues reached wide audiences and influenced jazz. Hughes's poetry celebrated Black life and challenged stereotypes.**
3	How did the Scopes trial and the Red Scare reveal different kinds of social conflict?	**The Scopes trial exposed disagreement over religion and science in schools. The Red Scare fueled fear of suspected radicals.**
4	What connected the violence of Red Summer to the Tulsa attack, and what happened in Greenwood?	**Both involved racist attacks on Black communities. In Tulsa, a white mob killed residents and destroyed businesses in Greenwood.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Prohibition did not fully bring the change its supporters wanted. Supporters believed banning alcohol sales would protect families, but many people defied the law. Illegal bars and organized crime grew instead of disappearing. The debate shows a conflict between people who wanted the government to restrict alcohol and those who rejected that restriction.

Accept other supported judgments about Prohibition if students explain both its intended effect and an outcome described in the passage. For the marking task, accept any clear cause-and-effect pair, such as demand for cars and new jobs.