Who Belonged?

Social tensions in the United States, 1919 to the 1920s

9-12.US2.10 "Evaluate the social tensions of the era, including: • Race • Christian fundamentalism • Labor • Immigration • Changing social values • The Red Scare • Rise of the Ku Klux Klan • Prohibition • Rise of the mob and mafia"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two conflicts between groups or ideas, then circle the people affected by each. Number one passage detail that shows a response making a conflict worse.

A City Under Strain

1. In 1919, Chicago's crowded factories and neighborhoods offered jobs to Black migrants from the South and newcomers from abroad. Yet housing segregation and competition for jobs intensified hostility. That summer, a white man threw stones at a Black teenager swimming in Lake Michigan; the teenager drowned, and days of racial violence followed. Black residents demanded protection, while many white residents defended unequal boundaries. The clash exposed how access to work and public space became tests of who belonged.

2. After the 1917 Russian Revolution and a wave of strikes and bomb scares in 1919, many Americans feared communist revolution. Officials arrested suspected radicals, and the federal government deported some immigrants, sometimes with little regard for their rights. Employers sometimes called striking workers “Reds,” even when workers simply sought better pay. This made organizing riskier and cast suspicion on newcomers. Supporters defended the arrests as protection; critics saw fear being used to silence dissent.

3. During the 1920s, the revived Ku Klux Klan recruited members across the country by attacking Black Americans, immigrants, Catholics, and Jews. Separately, Christian fundamentalists opposed teaching evolution, while other Americans embraced new music and freer social customs. These groups did not all share the Klan's views, but both debates revealed struggles over whose values would guide public life. Prohibition banned alcohol sales, yet illegal demand enriched organized crime, including Chicago's Al Capone. A law meant to improve society also gave mob bosses money and influence.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why was the 1919 violence about more than competition for jobs?

2. How could calling striking workers “Reds” make a labor dispute worse?

3. How did the Klan and Christian fundamentalists each challenge changing social values? What difference between them does the passage make clear?

4. Judge Prohibition by comparing its intended effect with one result described in the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence editorial for a 1920s Chicago newspaper. Connect two tensions in the passage, then recommend one response and explain why it would help.

Who Belonged?

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two conflicts between groups or ideas, then circle the people affected by each. Number one passage detail that shows a response making a conflict worse. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why was the 1919 violence about more than competition for jobs?	**Housing segregation and unequal access to public space also divided residents. The teenager's drowning exposed a conflict over who belonged at the beach.**
2	How could calling striking workers “Reds” make a labor dispute worse?	**The label linked demands for better pay to fears of revolution, making it riskier for workers to organize.**
3	How did the Klan and Christian fundamentalists each challenge changing social values? What difference between them does the passage make clear?	**The Klan attacked groups it wanted to exclude, while Christian fundamentalists opposed teaching evolution. The passage does not say that all fundamentalists shared the Klan's views.**
4	Judge Prohibition by comparing its intended effect with one result described in the passage.	**Prohibition was meant to improve society by banning alcohol sales, but illegal demand gave mob bosses money and influence.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Chicago should not treat the 1919 beach violence as an isolated dispute. A Black teenager drowned after a white man threw stones, and unequal access to public space helped fuel the conflict. In the 1920s, the Ku Klux Klan spread hostility toward Black Americans and immigrants nationwide, deepening the struggle over who belonged. City leaders should protect equal access to public spaces and investigate threats rather than accept racial boundaries. This response would challenge the prejudice connecting both tensions.

Accept other supported judgments. For the editorial, look for a clear connection between two tensions, a specific response, and an explanation grounded in the passage.