Who Belonged?

Change and conflict in 1920s Indiana

IS.1.18 "Assess the social and cultural impacts of the Red Scare, Prohibition, Religious Fundamentalism, the KKK, New Morality, and the New Woman in the post-WWI era as it pertains to Indiana."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two ways a movement changed people's choices or sense of belonging. Circle the name of the movement linked to each change.

Competing Visions for Indiana

1. In the 1920s, an Indiana factory worker might hear two arguments about safety. During the Red Scare, fear of communism encouraged suspicion of immigrants and labor organizers, making it harder for some neighbors to speak or organize without being called disloyal. Prohibition banned the sale of alcohol nationwide, and supporters hoped for safer homes and streets. Yet illegal sales continued, giving police more work and creating disputes over whether government should control private choices.

2. In Indiana, the Ku Klux Klan grew into a powerful political force during the 1920s. It presented itself as a defender of Prohibition and "American" values while intimidating Black residents, Catholics, Jews, and immigrants. Its influence narrowed who could feel welcome in public life. Some religious fundamentalists, meanwhile, defended traditional readings of the Bible and objected to teaching evolution. Their debates with other Hoosiers over schools showed how religious beliefs could shape public policy, even though fundamentalists were not all Klan members.

3. Other changes opened possibilities, though not equally for everyone. The New Woman represented greater public independence: after women won the vote in 1920, some Indiana women pursued paid work and political influence, despite barriers. New Morality described more open attitudes toward dating, dancing, and self-expression among some young people. These shifts challenged older expectations about gender and behavior, which helps explain the fierce reactions of traditionalists. Together, these movements made everyday choices, from school lessons to social gatherings, subjects of public conflict.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Red Scare and Prohibition each limit or challenge people's choices?

2. How did the Klan's claim to defend “American” values differ from its effect on Indiana communities?

3. How did the New Woman and New Morality challenge older expectations in different ways?

4. Why might religious fundamentalists and supporters of New Morality disagree about the place of traditional beliefs in public life? Use one detail about each.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence editorial for a 1920s Indiana newspaper assessing how two movements in the passage changed freedom or belonging. Include one passage detail about each movement, then judge which impact deserves more concern.

ANSWER KEY

Who Belonged?

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two ways a movement changed people's choices or sense of belonging. Circle the name of the movement linked to each change. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Red Scare and Prohibition each limit or challenge people's choices?	**The Red Scare made some immigrants and labor organizers afraid to speak or organize. Prohibition banned alcohol sales and sparked disputes over government control of private choices.**
2	How did the Klan's claim to defend "American" values differ from its effect on Indiana communities?	**The Klan claimed to defend those values, but its intimidation made Black residents, Catholics, Jews, and immigrants less welcome in public life.**
3	How did the New Woman and New Morality challenge older expectations in different ways?	**The New Woman represented women's growing political and economic independence. New Morality involved more open attitudes toward dating, dancing, and self-expression.**
4	Why might religious fundamentalists and supporters of New Morality disagree about the place of traditional beliefs in public life? Use one detail about each.	**Some fundamentalists wanted traditional Bible readings to guide school debates about evolution. Supporters of New Morality embraced more open attitudes toward social behavior.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Indiana should not confuse a promise of order with equal freedom. The Klan calls itself a defender of Prohibition, yet its intimidation makes Black residents and religious minorities less welcome. Some women now vote and seek paid work, gaining a greater public voice even as barriers remain. The Klan's intimidation deserves more concern than objections to women's independence because it shuts neighbors out of public life.

Accept supported inferences that distinguish a movement's stated aims from its effects. Editorial judgments may differ if they use accurate details about two movements.