

Unit 5—World War I and the 1920's Study Guide

Name: _____

SS5H4 The student will describe U.S. involvement in World War I and post-World War I America.

a. Explain how German attacks on U.S. shipping during the war in Europe (1914-1917) ultimately led the U.S. to join the fight against Germany; include the sinking of the Lusitania and concerns over safety of U.S. ships, U.S. contributions to the war, and the impact of the Treaty of Versailles in 1919.

b. Describe the cultural developments and individual contributions in the 1920s of the Jazz Age (Louis Armstrong), the Harlem Renaissance (Langston Hughes), baseball (Babe Ruth), the automobile (Henry Ford), and the airplane (Charles Lindbergh).

SS5CG3b Explain how voting rights were protected by the 19th amendment.

SS5E3 The student will describe how consumers and businesses interact in the U. S. economy.

a. Describe how competition, markets, and prices influence people's behavior.

b. Describe how people earn income by selling their labor to businesses.

c. Describe how entrepreneurs take risks to develop new goods and services to start a business.

SS5E1c Describe how specialization improves standards of living.

| Vocabulary: | Definition | Example |
|--|--|---|
| Competition (in relationship to the economy) | <i>When two companies or individuals are trying to accomplish the same goal.</i> | <i>When companies compete it usually causes prices to go down, because they are trying to get people to buy from them.</i> |
| Propaganda | <i>Posters and advertisements trying to get people to feel a certain way.</i> | <i>In World War I Uncle Sam was a famous piece of propaganda, trying to get people to join the war effort.</i> |
| Armistice or Treaty | <i>An armistice is an agreement to stop fighting. A treaty is the agreement between the countries after the fighting has stopped that decides who gets what.</i> | <i>In World War I an armistice was signed in 1918 to stop the fighting, but the Treaty of Versailles did not get finalized until 1919.</i> |
| Isolationism (in relationship to U.S. foreign policy) | <i>Isolationism is the belief that our country should not get involved in other countries' business.</i> | <i>President Wilson believed WWI was none of our business, until our ships started getting sunk, because it was being fought on the other side of the world.</i> |
| Labor (in relationship to the economy). | <i>People labor, or work, in order to make money.</i> | <i>Because the economy was good in the 1920's, most people were part of the labor force and were making money so they could buy new inventions and enjoy new entertainment.</i> |
| Entrepreneur | <i>An entrepreneur risks their money and all their stuff to start a business.</i> | <i>Many entrepreneurs started businesses in the 1920's because the economy was going well.</i> |
| Economy | <i>The flow of money in a certain place.</i> | <i>The economy was booming in the 1920's.</i> |
| Boom (in relationship to the economy) | <i>A boom is when the economy is doing very well.</i> | <i>The 1920's had a booming economy. Prices were getting lower as businesses learned how to make things faster. The faster they could make things, the cheaper they became and even more were sold.</i> |
| Stock Market | <i>People can buy small parts of companies called stocks. If the companies do well, then they make money, but if they do poorly they lose money.</i> | <i>The stock market was soaring in the 1920's, so people had more money to spend.</i> |

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Joining World War I

The U.S. didn't want to get involved in World War I because it was on the other side of the world. President Wilson wanted the U.S. to be isolationist. However, in 1915 several hundred Americans died when the Germans sunk the Lusitania, a British passenger ship. The U.S. was outraged. The Germans agreed to not sink any more ships not involved in the war, but in 1917 they broke their promise and the U.S. joined World War I.

U.S. Contributions to the War

When the U.S. entered the war in 1917, millions of men were drafted into the military. The government started propagand campaigns, like Uncle Sam, to convince people that they should help the war effort in whatever way possible. This often involved women working in factories to take the place of men who went off to war. It also involved rationing some items, so they could be used for the war effort.

Treaty of Versailles

The Treaty of Versailles was signed in 1919 and brought an end to World War I. The war didn't have a clear winner, but Germany got blamed for most everything and was ordered to pay millions in repayment. Most of the money never got repaid and many people think that the Treaty of Versailles was partly responsible for Germany starting World War II.

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Harlem Renaissance

The Harlem Renaissance was a time of change for African Americans. Many Americans only thought of blacks as poor farmers, but in the neighborhood of Harlem, in New York, many blacks set out to change that view. In Harlem, blacks began writing books, playing jazz music and even playing sports. Langston Hughes became a very famous author and poet who wrote about the struggles of blacks in a country that favored whites. Louis Armstrong spent some time in Harlem playing his Jazz and the Harlem Globetrotters began their famous basketball performances. African Americans at the time set out to prove that they were as talented as anyone from any race and that's how the Harlem Renaissance came about.

Roaring Twenties

After World War I, America's economy was booming. The U.S. made a lot of money by selling supplies to other countries during the war, and several countries owed the U.S. debt from the war. In addition, inventions such as the radio helped music and professional sports burst onto the scene. This allowed jazz musicians such as Louis Armstrong and athletes such as Babe Ruth to become famous. Also, because the economy was doing so well, people had money and could finally afford to enjoy entertainment such as sports, concerts or movies. Henry Ford also helped make some inventions such as the car, much more affordable by using the assembly line. His new specialized technique allowed average people to begin to buy cars, which allowed them to travel more, which made going to big sporting events or concerts possible. The booming economy caused the country to grow and the new inventions and entertainment helped the economy grow even more.

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Prohibition

Another cultural development during the 1920’s was the passing of the 18th amendment. This amendment passed in 1919 and made it illegal to sell or buy alcoholic drinks. The hope was that America would be better off if less people were getting drunk. The plan didn’t really work very well, because people who wanted to drink still found ways to buy and sell alcohol illegally. In 1933, the U.S. government passed the 21st amendment, which made it legal to buy and sell alcohol again.

Henry Ford

Ford wasn’t the only person to invent a car, he just figured out how to make millions of cars very quickly. This made Ford the most successful and well-known car inventor. His assembly line allowed each worker to be really good at their part of making a car, so cars could be made much faster. Many other businesses also started using assembly lines.

Babe Ruth

Ruth was a famous baseball player for the Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees who helped professional sports take off. The invention of the radio had a big impact on his rise to fame. Now people anywhere with a radio would know his name, instead of just the people who went to the games or read the newspapers. Ruth held the record for homeruns in a season and for a career for many years.

Charles Lindbergh

Lindbergh was the first person to make a solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean in 1927. He became an instant American hero, as people began to think of the possibilities. Crossing the Atlantic took weeks by ship, but the idea of crossing the ocean in a single day could change business and travel forever.

Louis Armstrong

Armstrong was a famous jazz musician, who became part of the Harlem Renaissance and also helped make the 1920’s become known as the Jazz Age.

Langston Hughes

Hughes was a famous African American author and poet during the Harlem Renaissance. He was well known for his writings about the struggles of blacks in a country that still had many racist ideas.

Woodrow Wilson

Wilson was the U.S. President during WWI who wanted to keep the U.S. out of the war. He eventually declared war on Germany when they continued to sink American ships heading to Europe.

SS5CG3b Explain how voting rights were protected by the 19th amendment.

The 19th amendment, which passed in 1920, gave women the right to vote—finally. Their help in the war effort helped them gain the final support they needed to pass the amendment.

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SS5E1c Describe how specialization improves standards of living.

Specialization--*Henry Ford specialized his workers by using an assembly line. Each worker became very good at their part of the assembly process. Cars could be made ten times faster, which allowed Ford to sell the cars for much cheaper. Cars made transportation much faster, which allowed people to travel further to shop and even go to sporting events or concerts that would have been too far away before. Ford's use of specialization had a major impact on the economy. Ford also paid his workers better than other car companies, so that he could keep the best workers. This allowed his company to be even more productive.*

Note: The other terms in these standards can be found in the vocabulary section at the beginning of the study guide.