

Name _____

The Roaring Twenties

The period after World War I is often referred to as the Roaring Twenties. During this time in American history, much of the younger generation simply wanted to enjoy life after surviving all the horror of the Great War. Much literature, art, and music was produced during this time of cultural change. Jazz music became a favorite among those looking for something different, and the Charleston became all the rage as people danced away their blues.

Many American citizens were able to enjoy an easier lifestyle, which helped create the time known as the Roaring Twenties. Inventions for completing housework made the tasks, which had typically been handled by women, much easier. This freed up time for women, giving them time to enjoy music, poetry, and leisure time. Technology also improved in creating movies. People began going to see films that now had

sound and not just pictures. Through this improved technology, people were able to see what was going on in other parts of the world, and they were able to feel connected to other people living in different areas of the United States as they listened to the same radio programs and watched the same movies.

Sports also saw an upswing in popularity during this time in American history. Crowds began flocking to sporting events, hoping to catch even a glimpse of their favorite players. Baseball legend Babe Ruth and boxer Jack Dempsey became popular during this time as fans followed their every move. People enjoyed attending sporting events and the feeling that the good times of the 1920s would never end. Sadly, the time of economic boom and good times would soon dissolve into one of the worst financial and social disasters of America's history: the Great Depression.

Text Questions.....

1. Why did people want to have a good time during the 1920s?
 - a. Everyone loved to dance and sing.
 - b. Everyone was a huge fan of jazz.
 - c. Everyone wanted to forget the horror of World War I.
 - d. Everyone wanted to spend money in America to help the economy.
2. Which part of the text explains why women were able to enjoy more leisure time during the 1920s?
 - a. first paragraph
 - b. second paragraph
 - c. third paragraph
 - d. the title
3. What evidence from the text helps you to explain your answer for question two?

4. What does the word *upswing* mean as it is used in the third paragraph?
 - a. a decrease
 - b. an increase
 - c. a steady drop
 - d. to remain the same
5. What would be a primary source a person could use to find out more about Babe Ruth?
 - a. an encyclopedia entry
 - b. a baseball almanac
 - c. a blog about baseball
 - d. an autobiography about Babe Ruth