

Boom to Bust: America in the 1920s

Traditional: Following of practices, beliefs and customs established over time and handed down from one generation to the next.

Modern: Characteristics of contemporary, present and recent time, not old fashioned or antiquated.

The 1920s ushered in an era of great social change, general prosperity, Prohibition and what historians refer to as “modernity.” This episode examines these great cultural changes and their effects on the nation. The 1920s, in stark contrast to the Victorian era, “roared,” as bathtub gin flowed and more and more Americans moved to urban areas. But the decade also saw limited prosperity for many, and the unrest and discord between the values of small town America and the rapid pace of science and technology. The optimism of the decade would end in the most severe economic depression in American history

Directions: During the video take notes on ways these two cultures clashed, list and describe any examples of Traditional and Modern America below in the space provided. Use the back of the handout if need be.

Topics to think about: Prohibition, Jazz Music, Entertainment, Harlem Renaissance, Immigration, Technology, the Automobile, the Radio, Role of Women, Scopes Trial, Sports and Popular Culture, KKK.

Traditional

Modern