

Understanding the 1920s

DIRECTIONS: Before we begin reading F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel *The Great Gatsby*, you should have a pretty good understanding of the context of the story—life in the 1920s, especially in New York and for young adults. Explore and learn! Here are some good videos:

1. Background—the 1920s: shows the lower classes and politics—watch the first 15 min.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RN7ftyZigYs>

2. Excellent Youtube video about the mansions of the north shore (East Egg) of Long Island.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aQ5o-vKO_24

3. Watch—5-minute video clips of the 1920s.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=684n8FO68LU>

4. What was life like during the 1920s? Go to this study.com video

<https://study.com/academy/lesson/1920s-american-culture-city-life-values.html>

Note the list of short videos on other aspects of the 1920s. You should have a basic understanding of the following:

- urbanization and modernization
- Prohibition
- organized crime
- the Harlem Renaissance
- the labor movement
- the Red Scare
- the effects of WWI and The Lost Generation
- the Ku Klux Klan, Nativism, and eugenics

5. **WWI and "The Lost Generation:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WW-7Kcs1WkA>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E_ajaiyyEvI

6. Good Youtube video to watch before reading *The Great Gatsby*.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zzXBy8teIdM>

7. Remember the performance of Blind d'Arnault in *My Antonia*? Watch this video to learn about the minstrel shows of the mid-1800s to mid-1900s:

<http://black-face.com/minstrel-shows.htm>

These are only a few informative videos, of course. Explore other appropriate websites that look interesting to you.

LEARNING OUTCOME:

What did you learn? What did you find interesting? What conclusions did you arrive at? Why?

OPTIONS:

- 1) Create a video of **two minutes** in which you talk about your learning, impressions, and conclusions about the 1920s. Be able to show it on your phone or upload it to YouTube.
- 2) Create a PowerPoint or other type of slide show that you can upload to your phone. Include a montage (collection) of representative images from the 1920s to accompany your text. Limit your text to what would take **two minutes** to read.
- 3) Create another audio-visual presentation of your learning that you can show on your phone. (Let me know what you're planning. Keep it to **two minutes**.)

DUE WEDNESDAY (1A) / THURSDAY (7B & 8B)

On Wednesday (A) / Thursday (B), you will be in groups and will show your presentation to your group. (25 pts)