

1920s Webquest

Welcome to the world of the 1920s! To more fully understand the context of *The Great Gatsby*, visit the following websites and complete the questions. First, go to Lmwebb.weebly.com and click the link *The Great Gatsby*. Then click the wequest link and begin.

Organized Crime

As a guest at *Gatsby's* party, you've probably heard the rumors. He killed a man. He was a German spy during the Great War. He was educated at Oxford. He has a lot of money, and serves great food and champagne at his parties. And, of course, he's probably involved in organized crime.

Al Capone

Read about Al Capone, America's most notorious gangster and leader of organized crime in the 1920s.



1. What was Capone's nickname and how did he get it?
2. When Capone moved to Chicago and became the protégé of Torrio, how did he eventually become the head of Torrio's business? How much did Capone's operations earn annually?
3. How did Capone help people after the 1929 stock market crash?
4. What was the St. Valentine's Day Massacre?
5. Despite the extent of his crimes, it was difficult for police to ever connect Capone with them. How did authorities finally convict Capone, and what did he serve prison time for?
6. Look at Capone's cell at Eastern State Penitentiary and at Alcatraz. What are your thoughts?
7. When and how did Capone die?

Arnold Rothstein

Read about Arnold Rothstein, a 1920s gangster who served as inspiration for one of the characters in *The Great Gatsby*.



1. What were Rothstein's nicknames?
2. Who were some of his associates?
3. How did Rothstein die?
4. How much money did Rothstein bet on the World Series?
5. Was Rothstein ever convicted of fixing the World Series?

Black Sox: The 1919 World Series Scandal

The 1920s saw scandal and corruption infiltrate even the most American of pastimes: baseball.



1. What were 8 of the Chicago White Sox accused of doing?
2. In the first game of the series, what was the signal that the fix was on?
3. Although never convicted, who is thought to have been a major player in funding the scandal?
4. Why did some of the players decide to call off the deal a few games into the series?
5. What led to an investigation of the scandal in 1920? What led to an acquittal?
6. Despite the acquittal, what action did baseball's commissioner take?
7. Who were the 8 'black sox'?

Overview of the 1920s

1. Introduction – What was the nickname of the 1920s? What were some of the events that occurred during this decade?
2. Click on “events” in the top tab – What was the life expectancy in the 1920s?
3. Give three important events that happened in the 1920s.
4. Click on “textbook” in the top tab, then “Prohibition” – What is prohibition?
5. When did prohibition begin and end?
6. Why did Prohibition fail?
7. What were speakeasies? (look at the pictures!)
8. In the textbook tab, click on “The Consumer Economy and Mass Entertainment” - What did big items did people spend their money on? Why was it easier to buy?
9. In the textbook tab, click on “The Formation of Modern American Mass Culture” - What are the forms of entertainment that evolved during this time?
10. Who were some of the stars?