



# History

# Year 9

# America, 1920 - 1939



<b>6<sup>th</sup> April 1917</b> The USA entered WW1 on the side of the Allies		<b>1919</b> The 18 <sup>th</sup> Amendment was passed.	<b>1920</b> Republican Warren Harding is elected as President.	<b>October 1929</b> The Wall Street Crash	<b>1932</b> Democrat Franklin Roosevelt elected President promising the New Deal
<b>1913</b> Henry Ford set up the first moving production lines.	<b>1919</b> Congress refuses to join the League of Nations	<b>1920s</b> The Roaring Twenties	<b>1928</b> Herbert Hoover elected President.	<b>1929</b> St Valentine's Day Massacre	<b>1939</b> WW2 begins in Europe

## Key Knowledge

## Key People

## Key Vocabulary

- After WWI, America decided to follow an isolationist policy under President Warren Harding. Harding promised a return to 'normalcy' – normal life as it had been before the war.
- Americans turned their energies into making money. Throughout the 1920s new industries and methods of production were developed. Telephones, radios, vacuum cleaners and washing machines were mass-produced on a vast scale.
- The 1920s are often called the Roaring Twenties. It was a time of riotous fun, loud music and wild enjoyment.
- Almost everyone listened to the radio. People who could not afford one, paid for one in instalments. By the end of 1922 there were 508 different radio stations.
- The radio gave much greater access to new music. Jazz music became an obsession amongst young people. Along with jazz, new dances like the Charleston were popular.
- Not all benefitted from the Roaring Twenties; farmers, immigrants and African Americans all struggled.
- In 1920 the 18<sup>th</sup> amendment banned the sale of alcohol, starting the prohibition era. Prohibition lasted from 1920 until 1933.
- Prohibition led to massive corruption, Many law enforcement officers were involved in the illegal liquor trade. Gangsters such as Al Capone, operated all over the USA, but were most closely associated with Chicago.
- The boom came to an abrupt end in October 1929 with the Wall Street Crash. The American economy collapsed and the USA entered a long depression that destroyed much of the prosperity of the 1920s.
- In 1930 more than 15 million Americans were unemployed. America had no social security system so the unemployed were destitute. Many were forced to live in 'Hoovervilles' when they lost their homes.
- Roosevelt's 'New Deal' from 1932 onwards helped to rebuild the American economy. The government began to support the unemployed, protected their savings and property, and get the American industry and agriculture back on its feet again.

<p><b>Henry Ford</b> 1863 – 1947</p> <p>American industrialist and founder of the Ford Motor Company. Revolutionised the automotive industry selling millions of cars.</p>
<p><b>Herbert Hoover</b> Republican, businessman and engineer. 31<sup>st</sup> President of the USA from 1929 to 1933 holding office at the start of the Great Depression.</p>
<p><b>Al Capone</b> One of the most powerful gangsters in Chicago. Arrived in 1919 on the run from a murder investigation in New York. Built up a huge network of corrupt officials, but was a very popular figure in the city.</p>
<p><b>Eleanor Roosevelt</b> Born in 1884 into a wealthy family. Married to Franklin Roosevelt. Concentrated on public housing for low-income families and better conditions for women workers.</p>

Isolationism	The idea that a nation should stay out of the disputes and affairs of other countries.
Prohibition	The prevention, by law, of the manufacturing and sale of alcohol.
Speakeasy	An illicit liquor shop or drinking club.
Speculation	The act of conducting a financial transaction that has a risk of losing money, but also the expectation of huge gains.
Over-production	The production of more of a product than is wanted or needed.
Laissez-faire	The government should interfere as little as possible in the everyday lives of people.
Depression	A period of steep and sustained drop in economic activity featuring high unemployment and drop in standards of living.
Hooverville	A shanty town built by unemployed and destitute people during the Depression.
'New Deal'	A series of programs, public work projects and reforms put in place by Roosevelt.
Republican	A member of supporter of the Republican Party.
Democrat	A member of supporter of the Democratic Party.