

1920s Jazz Age Document-Based Questions

How did the events of the 1920s reflect tensions in the United States?

Document A

The Alien Act, passed by Congress in 1918, stated that "any alien who, at the time after entering the United States, is found to have been at the time of entry, or to have become thereafter, a member of any anarchist organization" could be deported.

Journalist and critic, H.L. Mencken spoke out about the erosion of rights. "Government, today, is growing too strong to be safe. There are no longer any citizens in the world; there are only subjects."

Source: *The American Journey: Modern Times* by Glencoe

Student Analysis*

Does H.L. Mencken approve of the Alien Act? Why or why not?

How does this document reflect tensions in the United States?

Document B

This is a propaganda poster from the Temperance Movement that led to Prohibition in the 1920s.

THE GREAT DECEIVER

WATER & ALCOHOL

ALIKE IN APPEARANCE
DIFFERENT IN EFFECT

WATER

Necessary to Life
Benefits the Body
Softens Food
Quenches Thirst
Makes Seeds Grow
Cools the Skin
A Constituent of all Food
Has No Taste
Puts a Fire Out

ALCOHOL

Unnecessary to Life
Injures the body
Hardens Food
Creates Thirst
Kills the Seed
Inflames the Skin
Not Found in Food
Has a Burning Taste
Makes a Fire Burn More Freely

Source: Provincial Archives of Alberta,
https://www.flickr.com/photos/alberta_archives/21607666853

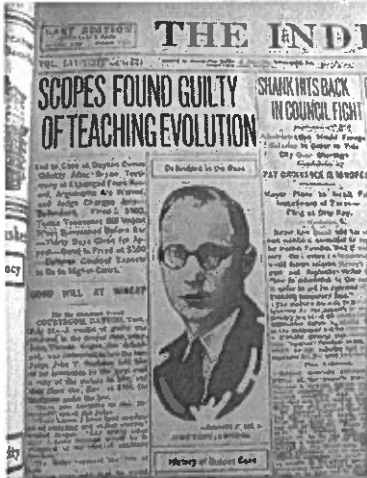
Student Analysis*

What is this poster attempting to persuade people to think or do?

How does this document reflect tensions in the United States?

Document C

This is a newspaper headline from May 5, 1925. Tennessee schoolteacher John Scopes was arrested, in violation of new state law. The ensuing "Scopes Monkey Trial," pitting defense attorney Clarence Darrow against three-time presidential candidate William Jennings Bryan in a proxy debate of modernity versus fundamentalism, captivates the nation.



Source: EdMethods

<https://i.pinimg.com/736x/b1/4d/f1/b14df158be2cd89a43df4768dc0686c6--high-school-teachers-roaring-s.jpg>

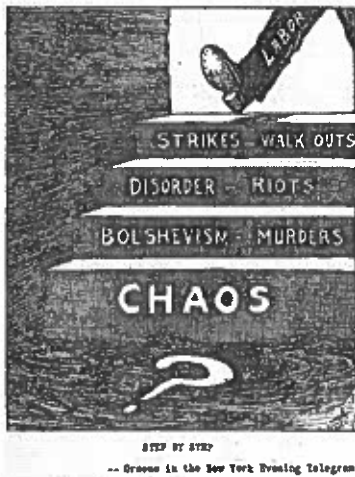
Student Analysis*

What was Scopes accused of? Was he innocent or guilty?

How does this document reflect tensions in the United States?

Document D

This is a propaganda poster during the Red Scare.



Source: Wikimedia

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/34/Step_by_step_green.jpg

Student Analysis*

What does the author of this poster believe the strikes of labor unions will lead to?

How does this document reflect tensions in the United States?

Document E

The following is an illustration of women's fashion from each decade of the 20th century.



Student Analysis

What is the major difference from the 1910s to the 1920s in fashion?

How does this document reflect tensions in the United States?

1920s Jazz Age DBQ Essay Prewriting Area

The 1920s, also known as the Jazz Age, was a time of change, but also a time of tension. Such events as the rise in nativism, Prohibition, the Scopes Trial, the Red Scare, and emergence of the "flapper" divided America into two opposing camps. Using at least three examples, discuss how the 1920s reflected tensions in the United States

Thesis: _____

Evidence:

Document _____

Document _____

Document _____

Name: _____ Date: _____ Pd.: _____

OE Score: 4 3 2 1 0

1920s Jazz Age DBQ Essay

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Student Reflection:

[Empty box for student reflection]