


Unit Resources - Glossary Terms from "The Roaring Twenties"

[Resources](#) > **Glossary Terms**

Glossary Terms from: 

Show As List

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anarchist

a person who believes in complete freedom without any form of government

armaments

the weapons and supplies of war with which a military unit is equipped

boom

a period of economic growth and expansion

bootlegging

the process of smuggling liquor; refers to Prohibition-era United States

Butler Act

1925 Tennessee law that outlawed teaching evolution in public schools

Charles Lindbergh

the first individual to fly an airplane across the Atlantic Ocean, an event that led to the growth of the aviation industry

contraception

things that are done to prevent a woman from becoming pregnant

decadence

excessive indulgence in pleasure or luxury and the resulting moral or cultural decline

disillusionment

the feeling of being dissatisfied or defeated in expectation or hope

efficiency

the amount of time and effort needed to produce something

Eighteenth Amendment

1919 amendment to the U.S. Constitution that declared the sale, transportation, and production of alcohol to be illegal

Emergency Tariff of 1921

a protective tariff that raised taxes on imported agricultural goods

Ernest Hemingway

twentieth-century American author known for depicting the aftermath of World War I

expatriate

a person who leaves her own country and takes up residence in a foreign land

export

a good or service produced within a country and sold outside of that country's borders

F. Scott Fitzgerald

twentieth-century American novelist known for his portrayal of decadence

feminist

a person who advocates or is active in promoting women's rights

flapper

a young woman in the 1920s who dressed and behaved in a way that was considered very modern

Gertrude Stein

early twentieth-century American author associated with modernist literature and the Lost Generation

Great Migration

the mass migration of African Americans from the rural South to northeast and midwestern cities in the United States during the twentieth century

Harlem Renaissance

a twentieth century cultural movement that involved an outpour of creative work by African American writers, thinkers, musicians, and artists

Henry Ford

early car manufacturer who started the Ford Motor Company and introduced the moving assembly line

import

good or service sold within a country that is produced in another country

Indian Citizenship Act of 1924

act that granted United States citizenship to all Native Americans born in the U.S.

Jazz Age

a name used to highlight the cultural development of the United States during the 1920s, during which jazz music became popular

Kellogg-Briand Pact

an agreement to outlaw war signed by 15 countries in 1928

laissez-faire theory

theory suggesting that government should play a very limited role in society

Lost Generation

a term referring to authors and intellectuals who expressed disillusionment about post-war 1920s America

Marcus Garvey

a staunch African American advocate of Negro nationalism during the early twentieth century; he created the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) with the purpose of rejecting white supremacy

Model T

the first car made with an assembly line by the Ford Motor Company; it became the first car average Americans could afford to buy

Modernism

a literary and artistic period between about 1910–1950, marked by distinctive innovations in form, content, and style

moving assembly line

a process where teams of workers assemble the same piece of a larger product, such as a car, rather than build the entire product from start to finish; parts are moved by a conveyor

nativism

a policy of favoring native inhabitants over immigrants

Negro nationalism

a political ideology that recognized a distinct national African American heritage

New Negro Movement

an African American sociopolitical movement that promoted a renewed sense of racial pride, cultural self-expression, economic independence, and progressive politics

new woman

a term used to describe a woman in the 1920s who resisted the limitations of society

Nineteenth Amendment

an amendment to the United States Constitution that prohibits states and the federal government from denying citizens the right to vote on the basis of sex

Perfect 36

term used for Tennessee to indicate that it became the 36th state to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment, meaning it could be passed

Prohibition

movement to end the production and sale of alcoholic beverages in the United States

Red Scare

a pervasive American fear of Communist infiltrators prompted by the success of the Bolshevik Revolution

Revenue Act of 1924

a bill that cut the federal tax rate

Revenue Act of 1926

a bill that reduced personal income and inheritance tax and removed the gift tax

Sacco-Vanzetti case

1921 trial of two Italian immigrants accused of robbery and murder; highlighted cultural tension of the time

Scopes Trial

1925 trial in which a Tennessee law against teaching evolution was challenged

Second Ku Klux Klan

the revival of the white supremacist society in the 1920s throughout the United States, especially in the Midwest

Silent Sentinels

a group of women suffragists who kept a silent vigil at the White House to show support for women's voting rights

Sinclair Lewis

early twentieth-century American author known for criticizing materialism and conformity

Spirit of St. Louis

the name of the airplane Charles Lindbergh flew across the Atlantic Ocean

suffragist

a person who works to extend the right to vote to those who do not currently have it

tariff

tax charged by a government on goods shipped in from another country or shipped out of its own country

Teapot Dome Scandal

the name given to a major scandal of the Harding presidency in which U.S. Navy oil reserves, including those at Teapot Dome, Wyoming, were used to enrich the secretary of the interior and his friends

W.E.B. Du Bois

a prominent African American author and intellectual associated with the Harlem Renaissance and Negro nationalism during the early twentieth century

Washington Disarmament Conference

an international military conference held in the United States between 1921–1922