

CHAPTER 11

SECTION 4

Mass Media and the Jazz Age



HERO WORSHIP

- ◎ Americans became fascinated with heroes in the 1920's because they longed for the values of the “good old days”.



CHARLES LINDBERGH

- ◎ In 1927 Charles Lindbergh flew his specially built plane (**The Spirit of Saint Louis**) nonstop across the Atlantic from NY to Paris in 33 ½ hours.



“LUCKY LINDY”



- ◎ No co-pilot or navigation equipment.
- ◎ **Americans everywhere followed his flight.**
- ◎ Celebrated as a national hero.
- ◎ He remained modest and refused millions in publicity fees.
- ◎ Stuck to solid moral values of the “good old days”.

AMELIA EARHART

- ◎ **First woman to cross the Atlantic alone (1932).**
- ◎ **Disappeared over the Pacific in 1937 attempting to fly around the world.**



SPORTS HEROES

- ◎ **Jack Dempsey** became the heavyweight boxing champion of the world in the 1920's.
- ◎ **Babe Ruth** set homerun and pitching records in baseball.



MASS MEDIA

- ⦿ A means of **communicating information to large numbers of people.**
- ⦿ People from **different regions of the country** began to learn about each other's cultures. (They didn't travel around much or talk to each other)



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THE MOVIE INDUSTRY

- ◎ 100 million/week went to the movies.
- ◎ Total population was only 125 million.
- ◎ Didn't even have sound ("talkies") until 1927. (*The Jazz Singer*)
- ◎ Number of theatres quadrupled between 1910 - 1920.



NEWSPAPERS AND RADIO

- ◎ **Created a common culture** because people read about the same events and were influenced by the same ideas (fashions, sports events, etc.).



JAZZ

- © Different from other forms of music because it relies on **improvisation** (making up music as you play it).



THE “JAZZ AGE”

- © 1920's were referred to as this because the times were energetic and full of life just like Jazz music.



SPREAD OF JAZZ MUSIC

- ◉ Although it originated in New Orleans, Jazz music **became the rage among young people all across the country because of the radio.**
- ◉ Jazz filled 2/3rds of all radio airtime.



JAZZ CLUBS

- ◉ Many were located in **Harlem in NYC**.
- ◉ **The Cotton Club** was most famous.
- ◉ Mostly white audiences.
- ◉ **Louis Armstrong** - “Satchmo”.
- ◉ **Duke Ellington** - “The Duke”.



HARLEM RENAISSANCE

- ◎ Movement of **black artists and writers in NYC's Harlem neighborhood.**
- ◎ Many open-minded white artists/writers mingled with them.



2ND CLASS CITIZENS?

- ◉ After seeing the French not discriminate after WWI they were unwilling to accept second class citizenship.
- ◉ Not so much discriminated against as **failed to be seen - like they were invisible.**



LANGSTON HUGHES

- ◎ Black Poet who spoke with a clear, strong voice about the joys and difficulties of being human, being American, and being black
- ◎ Read “*I Too*” p. 363

CREATE A FLYER

- ◉ Imagine you are a promoter for a new Jazz Club that has just opened in Harlem (in New York City)
- ◉ Create a flyer that promotes your new club and the musicians that will play at it
- ◉ Use one of the more famous clubs listed below and some of these artists/musicians
 - The Hollywood Club *Jazz Singer - Bessie Smith*
 - The Cotton Club *The Jelly Roll Morton Band*
 - Connie's Inn *Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong*
 - The Saratoga Club *"The Duke" - Duke Ellington*