

Scheme of Learning: The USA 1910-29

Topic Sequence:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
The Economic Boom	Immigration	Race and Religion	Crime and Corruption	Lives of Women	Popular Entertainment	End of the Economic Boom

Topic Overview:

America saw a spike in crime and corruption during the 1920s, much of this focused around the lucrative business of alcohol. Despite being banned in America (Prohibition), alcohol production, sales and consumption skyrocketed in America. This led to many Americans, ranging from ordinary citizens to gang bosses like Al Capone, ignoring and breaking the law. Corruption was also evident in the highest office of government, such as the Teapot Dome Scandal which rocked the presidency in the 1920s.

Lesson Sequence:

1. Why did the USA ban alcohol in 1919? Prohibition was enacted in the USA for a variety of social, economic and religious reasons. We need to understand the reasons for the passing of the Volstead Act in 1919 and the various groups who campaigned for it.
2. How far did the USA observe the Volstead Act? Although the Volstead Act banned the production, sale and consumption of alcohol, this didn't mean that alcohol disappeared from the USA. In fact, Americans ranging from the workers to gangsters, bar-tenders to politicians, continued to enjoy alcohol (some might argue even more than before). We look at how much America actually followed the Volstead Act and refrained from alcohol in this lesson.
3. What impact did organised crime have on 1920s America? Although many groups profited from Prohibition, it was organised crime groups in major cities that benefited the most. The growth in illegal alcohol production and bootlegging resulted in a spike in crime in cities such as Chicago and New York, including terrorism and murder. We look at how organised crime impacted the USA, focusing on Al Capone and the Chicago Outfit.
4. How corrupt was the US government in the 1910s and 1920s? Here we examine governmental corruption, namely a scandal involving members of the government who took bribes for leasing land to oil companies, further reinforcing earlier lessons' ideas that crime and corruption were endemic to 1920s America.
5. Assessment: Knowledge test and Q3.

Sequence of Lessons:

1	Why did the USA ban alcohol in 1919?
2	How far did the USA observe the Volstead Act?
3	What impact did organised crime have on 1920s America?
4	How corrupt was the US government in the 1910s and 1920s?
5	Assessment: Knowledge test and Q3.

Topic Resources:

Knowledge Map:	USA 1910-29	Any other Resources:	EDUQAS USA 1910-29 Textbook
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Assessment:

Knowledge:	10
Application of Knowledge:	Q3 from the USA 1910-29 paper.

Supportive Reading:

Any supported reading listed here	EDUQAS USA 1910-29 Textbook