



# West Virginia in the Roaring 1920s

**Objective:** Students will research people, places, and events relating to West Virginia in the Roaring 1920s. Students will learn about the industrial, economic, and social growth of West Virginia.

## **GRADE LEVEL**

Eighth Grade

## **TIME REQUIRED**

90 minutes

## **GUIDING QUESTIONS**

1. Why was the 1920s a period of prosperity?
2. How did industries grow during this period?
3. What groups of people saw progress during this period?
4. How did West Virginia's infrastructure improve during the 1920s?

## **STRATEGIC VOCABULARY**

Prohibition  
speakeasy  
bootlegger  
suffrage

## **LESSON ACTIVITIES**

1. Students will do research on the *e-WV* website to learn more about West Virginia during the 1920s. They will create a "Decade Poster" on information they have collected. Guidelines can be adjusted to vary for computer lab time and available materials. The activity will highlight a major development during this time period. (Being born in the 1920s does not qualify as a major accomplishment of the period.) This project could be assigned to groups or as an individual assignment. The poster should be done in a style that fits the 1920s. Students should be prepared to present and answer questions about all of the information covered on their posters.
2. Select the "Features" tab at the top of the homepage of *e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia* at <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/>. Show students the interactive timeline. Select the range to reflect 1920 – 1930 and allow students to find articles, people, and industries that influenced West Virginia during the 1920s.



4. Here is an example of the information that could be included on the decade poster:
- Ten major events from the 1920s.
  - Two influential West Virginians that had an impact in the 1920s social progress (civil rights or women’s rights).
  - Five pictures of an event or person from the decade.
  - Five examples of infrastructure that was added or changed during the 1920s.
5. Here are some of the articles in *e-WV* that will help students as they research the 1920s:
- Women’s Suffrage: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1330>
  - Prohibition: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1931>
  - Smoot Theatre: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/493>
  - Chemical Industry: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1124>
  - Glass Industry: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2116>
  - Homer Laughlin China Company: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/474>
  - Good Roads Movement: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2133>
  - The Capitol: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/943>
  - African American Heritage: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/27>
  - Ephraim Franklin Morgan: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2046>
  - Governor’s Mansion: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2137>
  - Minnie Buckingham Harper: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/259>
  - Harriet B. Jones: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1050>
  - Jesse A. Bloch: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/551>
  - Civil Rights: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1189>
  - Revenues: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/68>
  - League of Women Voters: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/1304>
  - South Charleston: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/518>
  - Blenko Glass: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/536>
  - Gravely Tractor: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2152>
  - Howard Mason Gore: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/2134>
  - State Parks: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/569>
  - Steel Industry: <http://www.wvencyclopedia.org/articles/586>

## **WEST VIRGINIA NEXT GENERATION CONTENT STANDARDS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **SOCIAL STUDIES**

- SS.8.24: Demonstrate an understanding of West Virginia’s development during the early twentieth century.
- Analyze the evolution of the labor movement in West Virginia.
  - Summarize the progressive reform movement in West Virginia (e.g., child labor laws, Prohibition, improvements to roads, hospitals, libraries, tax reforms, changes to local government systems)



tems and the roles of significant individuals and groups).

- Summarize the political, social and economic situation in West Virginia following World War I, including progress in suffrage for women, improvements in daily life in urban/rural areas, Roaring 20's and developments in industry.

Explain the effects of the Great Depression and the lasting impact of New Deal programs on West Virginia, including the Homestead Projects.

- SS.8.2: Evaluate how citizens can influence and participate in government at the local, state, and national levels and assume the role of an active citizen participating in the democratic process (e.g. lobbying, voting, community service, letter writing and school elections).
- SS.8.8: Analyze the impact of absentee ownership, renewable and nonrenewable natural resources, labor unionization and the development of infrastructure on the economic growth of West Virginia (e.g. railroad, major highways, internet and cellular service).
- SS.8.17: Analyze the geographic factors that led to development of agricultural, coal, glass, chemical, metallurgic and tourism industries in West Virginia (e.g., floods and coal mining disasters).

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