**Intolerance in the 1920’s**

**Introduction:** After WW1 America worked hard to focus inward and return to the way things were before the war. Change, to many, was an unwelcome threat. Therefore, when the nation was faced with inevitable changed, panic and hysteria often followed, fueling some of the most extreme acts of intolerance in our history. This activity will acquaint you with several examples of intolerance from this period.

\*\*Use your textbook and the internet\*\*

**TOPIC: OVERVIEW: “Looking Ahead: A Time of Fear and Panic”**

1. If you were called a **“Red”**, you were accused of being what?
2. When did the **Red Scare** take place?
3. What was happening in Russia that caused alarm in the United States? *EXPLAIN*
4. Why were the first 5 years after WW1 considered a time of rising *intolerance*?

**TOPIC: “RED SCARE” (page 413)**

1. What were the goals of the communists in terms of business, land, and government?
2. Fear and panic spread across the United States after WW1. Give examples of these in the following areas.
   1. Labor Unrest:
   2. Race Riots:
   3. Bomb Scares:
3. Who was **A. Mitchell Palmer**? Explain his methods for dealing with alleged communists.
4. Why did some lawyers believe that the **Palmer Raids** put the right of **Free Speech** in danger?
5. *Opinion:* Were the Palmer Raids fair? Why? Why not?

*Additional notes from text reading:*

**TOPIC: “IMMIGRANTS” (page 415)**

1. What was the **quota system**?
2. How was the quota system unfair to immigrants coming from Southern & Eastern Europe?
3. Give four reasons why the United States decided to limit immigration in 1921.
4. How long was the quota system in effect?
5. What did the new immigration laws do?
6. *Opinion:* What impact did wartime propaganda have on United States attitudes towards immigrants?

*Additional notes from text reading:*

**TOPIC: “SACCO & VANZETTI” (pages 413-414)**

1. What crime occurred on April 15, 1920?
2. Who was arrested for the crime?
3. Provide a background profile of these two individuals. (background, occupations, beliefs, etc.)
4. What was the sentence in this case?
5. Give three reasons why some felt the sentence was wrong?
   1. 1
   2. 2
   3. 3
6. What happened: August 23, 1927?

In 1977?

1. *Opinion:* In what ways does this case reflect the mood of intolerance in the 1920’s?

*Additional notes from text reading:*

**TOPIC: “KKK” (page 415)**

1. What does **KKK** stand for?
2. What were the membership requirements?
3. Who were their 4 main targets of intolerance? (4 groups)
4. What were the KKK’s scare tactics?
5. How powerful, in terms of numbers, did they become in the 1920’s?
6. What caused the KKK to lose popularity during the late 1920’s?
7. Give three reasons people were attracted to the KKK.
8. Why were Catholics targeted by the KKK?
9. *Opinion*: Why do you think the KKK became so popular during the 1920’s?

*Additional notes from text reading:*

**TOPIC: “THE SCOPES TRIAL” (pages 438-439)**

1. What did **fundamentalists** believe in about the bible and the teaching of evolution?
2. What was the **Butler Act**?
3. Who was John Scopes and why was he arrested?
4. Name & provide a brief background of the two lawyers in this famous trial.
   1. Defense (Scope’s Lawyer):
   2. Prosecution:
5. Why is Scopes trial sometimes referred to as the “**Monkey Trial**”?
6. What is the final outcome of the Scopes Trail? What happens to John Scopes?
7. What effect do the trial results have on fundamentalism?
8. *Opinion*: If John Scopes were teaching science today, would he face more intolerance toward his teaching biblical creationism or evolutionary theory? Explain

*Additional notes from text reading:*

**TOPIC: “WOMEN’S VOTE”**

1. Define **Suffrage**:
2. List three reasons why some were against **Women’s Suffrage**.
3. What almost prevented the Wyoming Territory from gaining statehood?
4. Summarize the political process which led to the passage of the 19th Amendment
5. What occurred on August 26, 1920?
6. Who did **most** women vote for in their first ever presidential election?
7. *Opinion*: How would suffrage rights open the door to other gains for women?

*Additional notes from text reading*:

**TOPIC: “PROHIBITION” (pages 436-437)**

1. What began on January 16, 1920? What does it mean?
2. How long did this “dry” period last?
3. Define / Describe:
   1. **“Wets” v. “Drys”**
   2. **Bootleg**
   3. **Speakeasy**
   4. **Rumrunners**
4. Although prohibition was an outgrowth of our intolerance towards the social problems associated with alcohol, its passage created new problems. Describe the problems that were created by prohibition in the United States.
5. Why did Democrats campaign to **repeal** prohibition in 1932?
6. What happened in February 1933?
7. *Opinion:* What might have happened if prohibition had never been repealed?

*Additional notes from text reading:*