

Name: _____

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald:
Cultural and Historical Context
“The Jazz Age” Research Project

Many consider *The Great Gatsby* the definitive portrait (and critique) of the glamor and wealth of the high society of the Roaring Twenties, or “The Jazz Age” (a term coined by Fitzgerald himself). In order to deeply engage with the text, we need to have some background information about the world in which it takes place.

In groups of 4-5, you will be assigned a topic from the list below to research online. With each topic are helpful links to start your research and some key topics or ideas to include in your presentation. **To facilitate your research, you will complete 4 source cards, due at the time of your presentation.** You will compile your findings into a short (~5 minute) presentation to the class. Groups will present **Tuesday April 17th.**

- **Jazz-** From its origins in the South to New York Jazz of the 20’s
 - Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, Bessie Smith
 - http://www.pbs.org/jazz/time/time_roaring.htm
- **The Harlem Renaissance-** An explosion of art and thought from artists and academics of color. Contemporary and local to Fitzgerald
 - The Great Migration
 - <http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/harlem-renaissance>
 - http://www.pbs.org/wnet/jimcrow/stories_events_harlem.html
- **The Car**
 - “Car Culture,” Urban/Suburban Sprawl
 - <http://www.history.com/topics/automobiles>
- **Art Deco and Surrealism-** Architecture and visual art movements contemporary to Fitzgerald
 - <http://artdeco.org/>
 - <http://www.theartstory.org/movement-surrealism.htm>
 - www.moma.org/collection/
- **1920’s Fashion and the Flappers**
 - <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/the-history-of-the-flapper-part-1-a-call-for-freedom-11957978/?no-ist>

2016

Gatsby Historical Context

- **Prohibition and the rise of Organized Crime**
 - Al Capone (& Eastern State Penitentiary!)
 - <https://prohibition.osu.edu/>
 - <http://www.history.com/topics/prohibition>
- **The Life of F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald**
 - “The Lost Generation”
 - <http://www.pbs.org/kteh/amstorytellers/bios.html>

Presentation Guidelines:

- Your presentation should last **~5 minutes**.
- Your presentation should make creative use of **audio and visual media** (pictures, music, video, etc.)
- **Every member of your group must speak** during your presentation.
- **You may not read off of your slides.** Slides should not have detailed descriptions, only short talking points which you then verbally present in greater detail.
- Your final slide must be a **Works Cited slide** that cites all the resources you used to find your information **in MLA format**.

Scoring:

- **30 points** for the content of your presentation.
 - Did you capture and convey the key historical details and cultural significance of your topic?
 - Did your group make creative use of audio/visual media?
 - Did you use multiple sources, including **at least one source not listed on this sheet?**
 - Did you complete 5 source cards?
- **10 points** for presentation.
 - Did everyone speak?
 - Was material presented in a natural, conversational way, rather than reading text from slides?

40 points total

Helpful starting research links:

- <http://www.history.com/topics/roaring-twenties>
- <http://www.ushistory.org/us/46.asp>
- <http://www.1920-30.com/>
- <http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/era.cfm?eraID=13&smtID=2>