

A Living History  
of Our World

# AMERICA'S STORY

3



ANGELA O'DELL

From the Early 1900s  
to Modern Times



First printing: October 2017

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*Dedicated to John Tuohy, one of my heroes and dearest friends. Thanks, Johnny!*  
*Soli Deo Gloria*

*Women factory workers  
assembling a B-17 bomber,  
1942.*



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Welcome to *A Living History of Our World: America's Story Vol. 3*. I am so pleased that you have chosen this series to teach your children the story of history.

You will find that this series is a unique combination of storybook and history curriculum. It is written in the same style that I have used with my children for the last ten years. Many of the stories are the ones that I have told my own children, as we have woven our tapestry of historical knowledge throughout the years. My goal in writing this curriculum is to make an easy-to-use, comprehensive history resource for you to use with all of your elementary-aged through junior high-aged children at one time, with little to no preparation and no necessary supplements.

First, I would like to share with you what I have learned through teaching my children history in this way. First and foremost, I have learned that history truly does need to be taught as HIStory. However, you do not need to teach your children from a “religiously sterile” point of view. Not everyone in history was a Christian, but that does not mean that God did not use them for His plan and glory. I have also learned that children need to know how they fit into this picture and how history pertains to their lives.

In our family, we firmly believe in providing a living education. For us, a living education is about making relationships with what we learn. It means that we learn about both heroes and villains. We learn about both famous men and women and not-so-famous men and women. We make friends in history instead of just memorizing dates and names. We reach out and touch nature and learn to be observant of the small things in life. We see God's love for us in the flaming-red sunset, as well as in the busy little ants laboriously gathering their food. We work diligently to hide God's Word in our hearts.

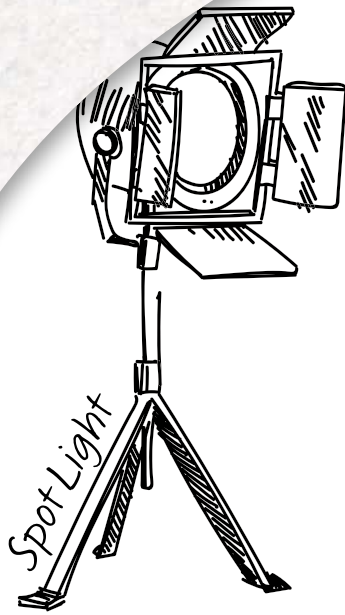
“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.” 1 Peter 4:11 (KJV).

Blessings,  
Angela O'Dell

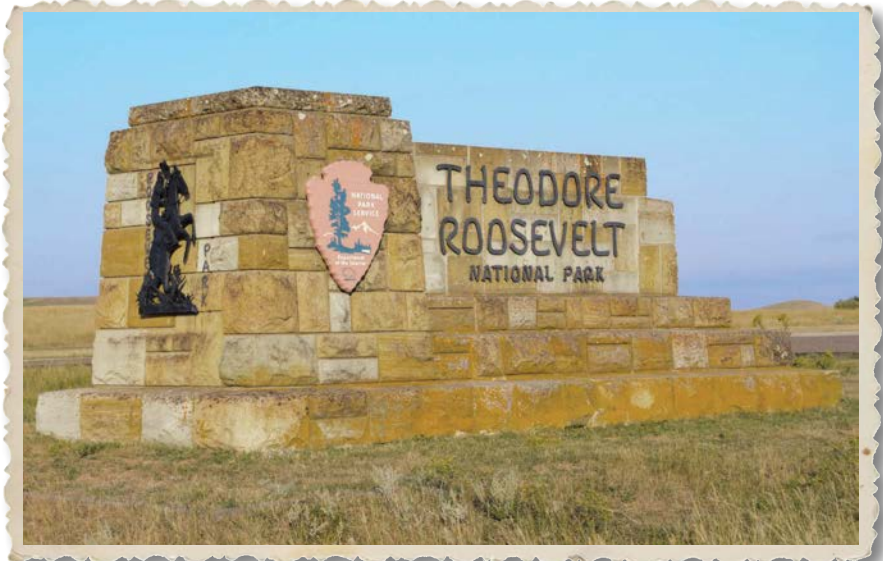


## CHAPTER 1

# THE STORY OF TEDDY ROOSEVELT



**Starting Point:** Theodore Roosevelt is one of American history's most interesting characters. Before becoming president, he was a rancher and a war hero. We can thank Mr. Roosevelt for establishing nationally owned nature reserves and parks. In his presidency of the United States, he established more than 230 million acres of protected lands.



**Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota:** This national park in the North Dakota Badlands includes the location of Teddy Roosevelt's ranches. He lived in the west during the 1800s and worked as a cattle rancher.



1. What kind of person was Theodore Roosevelt?
2. In which war did Theodore serve?





Theodore Roosevelt re-elected president

November 1904

U.S. Forest Service founded

February 1905

Pure Food and Drug Act and Meat Inspection Act passed.

June 1906



*Teddy Roosevelt as a baby*

In this chapter, we will start learning the story of a particularly interesting American. This American is one of the most famous and colorful characters in our history! Theodore Roosevelt, better known as “Teddy,” was born on October 27, 1858. His family was one of many families divided by the Civil War, for his father was a staunch supporter of Abraham Lincoln and preserving the Union, while his mother was sympathetic to the Confederate cause. Young Teddy’s two uncles on his mother’s side were in the Confederate Army and Navy, and he grew up hearing tales of their heroic deeds.

Teddy had three siblings; two sisters and one brother. His older sister was very much like a mother to Teddy and was known to be very protective of him. Perhaps one of the reasons Teddy’s sister, Anna, nicknamed “Bamie,” worried over him was that he was a sickly child. Due to his finicky health, Teddy did not do well in school. His chronic asthma was accentuated by his hyperactive and mischievous behavior. Like Thomas Edison, Teddy Roosevelt was full of questions. He wanted

to know everything there was to know about animals — bugs, birds, bees. Everything was of interest to young Teddy!

Mrs. Roosevelt wisely decided to take her son out of school and educate him at home. Teddy flourished in his home education. He started his very own museum to show off the creatures he had caught, killed (or found dead), and studied. The “Roosevelt Museum of Natural History” was housed in the Roosevelts’ basement. His health was also better during his home education years. His father encouraged him to exercise to strengthen his body, so Teddy became an avid boxer.

Theodore decided to attend college and was accepted into Harvard University. It was while he was at Harvard that he became interested in the history of American wars — the War of 1812, in particular. He became so interested, in fact, that he spent hours reading and studying about the war strategies used on land and on sea. He especially liked the naval battles and



*Young Teddy Roosevelt*





*Alice Lee Roosevelt*

studied them so much that he wrote a book about his findings. This book, *The Naval War of 1812*, is used even today because of the precision and accuracy of his writing. It is considered one of the most helpful of all books for learning naval battle strategy.

After Harvard, Theodore married a young lady named Alice Hathaway Lee. The young couple's marriage was cut short, though, because two days after their daughter, Alice Lee, was born, the young mother died of kidney failure. The blow was doubled, for on the very same day and in the same exact house, Teddy's mother also died of typhoid fever! Teddy's diary entry for that day was a large "X" and the words, "The Light has gone out of my life." Teddy would never again speak the name of his beloved wife.

After the deaths of his wife and his mother, Teddy ran away to the **Dakotas**. He needed time to think and a change of scenery. He spent his time hunting, raising livestock, and living the life of a wilderness man. Teddy still loved adventure, though, and soon he was well known around the area as an intelligent and courageous man. He became a deputy sheriff and helped track down outlaws. Always a man of words, Teddy wrote about his adventures and sold his stories in Eastern magazines.

Teddy had a grand time living in the Dakotas. However, his adventures were cut short when most of his livestock was wiped out by a particularly bitter winter. He was not at his ranch at the time, but the loss made Teddy decide to return to the East permanently and enter politics. He became active in the Republican Party as a state assemblyman in 1884, and he ran for the office of mayor of **New York City** in 1886. He did not win that office, but he realized that it had given him good political experience.

It was at this time that Benjamin Harrison was running for the presidency, and Roosevelt was an avid supporter. When Harrison became president, he appointed Teddy to the U.S. Civil Service Commission in 1888. He would serve on this commission until 1895.

In 1886, he married his childhood friend, Edith Carow. Together, they would go on to have five children. He was an extraordinarily involved father who loved to play with his children and found great joy in watching them learn something new. Teddy was very busy, and he became even busier when he became the president of the Board of New York City Police Commissioners in 1895.



*Theodore Roosevelt in the 1880s*





*Teddy, his second wife,  
and his children in 1903*

## NARRATION BREAK

*Tell what you learned about  
Teddy's life so far.*

**POLITICAL MACHINE:** organi-  
zation controlled by a boss, who  
rewards supporters for loyalty.

Teddy had his work cut out for him, because the New York City police force was notoriously corrupt! He attacked these problems in his usual gung-ho fashion, gaining the respect of the city he was serving. It is written in the department's history division records that Theodore Roosevelt was "an iron-willed leader of unimpeachable honesty," and that he "brought a reforming zeal to the New York City Police Commission in 1895."

Teddy not only attacked the corrupt dealings of certain officers and board members, but he also worked hard to reform and establish new disciplinary rules for the officers on the force. He also established a new bicycle squad to police the city's traffic problems, and he made the use of pistols standard for all officers.



Teddy realized that the department needed more officers to effectively keep the peace, so he appointed more than 1,500 new members of the force. He didn't like the way the officers were out of shape physically, so he established yearly physical exams to encourage better fitness.

While Teddy served the police department, he often took his turn "walking the beat" to make sure that policemen were on duty. He was exposed to the rougher and poorer side of New York City, and it made him want to do something to help. It was during this time that Teddy met a man named Jacob Riis. Mr. Riis was a reporter for the *Evening Sun* newspaper who wrote *How the Other Half Lives*, which showed the deplorable living conditions of the city's many poor immigrants.

In 1897, much to his delight, Teddy was assigned to be the Assistant Secretary of the Navy. He had always been fascinated with ships and naval battles, and now he was to be instrumental in getting the U.S. Navy prepared for the Spanish-American War. (If you were with us for Volume 2, do you remember reading about this war?)

Teddy was torn; he had worked hard to help prepare the Navy for war, but he also wanted to rally American men around him to help. Though he loved the Navy, Roosevelt resigned in order to find volunteers to form the First U.S. Volunteer Cavalry Regiment. This regiment, which was called the "Rough Riders," was made up of cowboys from the West and Ivy League friends from New York.



*Teddy in his Rough Riders uniform*

As the leader of the Rough Riders, Teddy Roosevelt held the rank of lieutenant colonel. The regiment fought in **Cuba** where the mosquitoes were horrible. It was tough going! More soldiers died of malaria than in battle. It was so terrible that Colonel Roosevelt requested that the soldiers be allowed to go home. Despite the difficulties, in July of 1898, Teddy and his Rough Riders became famous for their successful charge up Kettle Hill during the Battle of San Juan Hill.

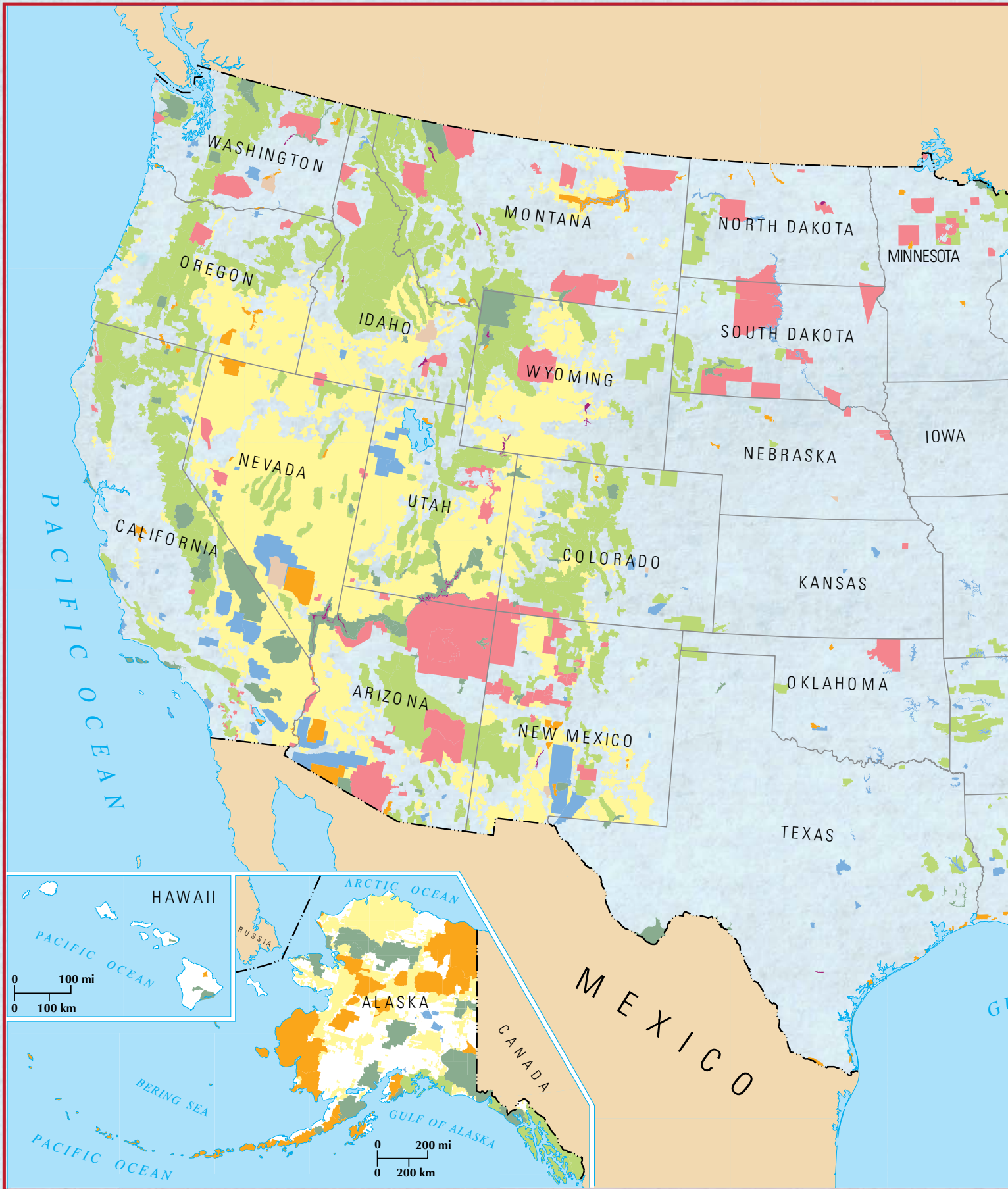
When he returned home, Teddy decided to return to politics and became governor of **New York**. As usual, he used his position of authority to attack the injustices around him. In this case, it was the political machines, who were corrupt and controlled politics. Teddy gained much respect and made many enemies for his view of honest politics. It was from this platform of governor that he was chosen to be the vice president of the United States for President William McKinley.

The uneventful vice presidency lasted six months — until President McKinley was assassinated. And so it was that Theodore Roosevelt became president of the United States. In our next chapter, we will learn more about Teddy Roosevelt as president. This was a great time of change and reform in our country. Some of it was good and some not so good, but all of it was important and has much to do with how our country is today.

## NARRATION BREAK

*How did Teddy become president?*







## FEDERAL LAND IN THE UNITED STATES TODAY

The different federal agencies that own land do so for varied reasons. The Bureau of Indian Affairs land is tribal reservations. The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for an assortment of land uses, including livestock grazing, recreation, and energy production. The Bureau of Reclamation oversees water and energy projects in the Western states. The Department of Defense includes military bases, while the Fish and Wildlife Service manages wildlife refuges. Meanwhile, the Forest Service and the National Park Service are responsible for national forests and parks. The Tennessee Valley Authority's job is to maintain the Tennessee River, including flood control and navigation. What agencies own federal land in your state? Check out this map to see where national land is in the United States today.





# THE GANGS (OF THE 1800s) OF NEW YORK CITY



▲ July 4, 1857 battle between New York City street gangs. Gang violence was a huge problem for the city in the 1800s.

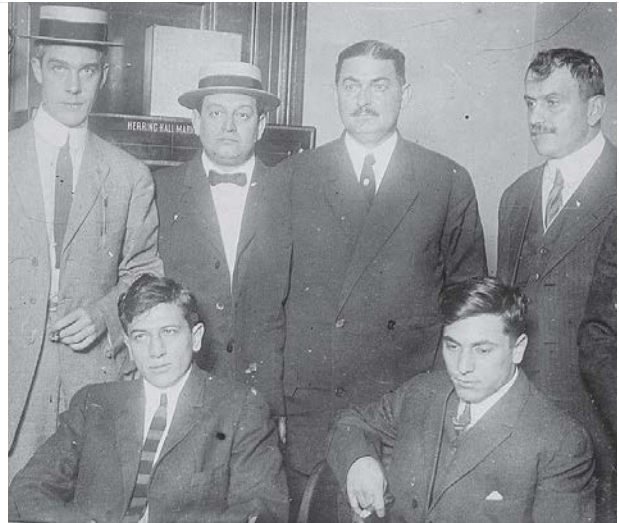
◀ Members of the Five Points Gang of New York City.



▲ Gang leader Monk Eastman



▲ Gangster Whitey Lewis



▲ Lenox Avenue Gang members and the men who captured them, early 1900s.





▲ Many gangsters were sent to the New York prison Sing Sing. They lived in small, uncomfortable cells.



▲ New York City Police inspector in the early 1900s. An inspector is a high-ranking policeman who usually does not go on patrols.

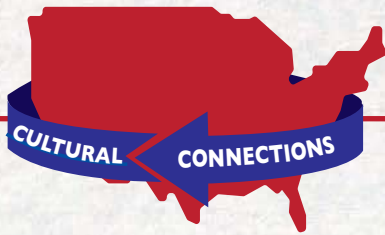


▲ Men looking at the city police's "rogue's gallery," pictures of criminals.

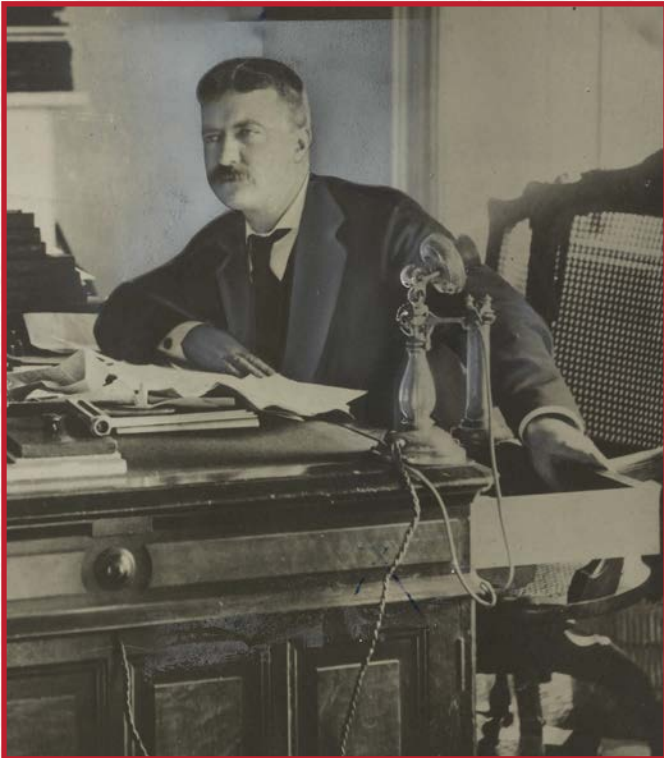


▲ In the early 1900s, police were taking "mug shots" of criminals.

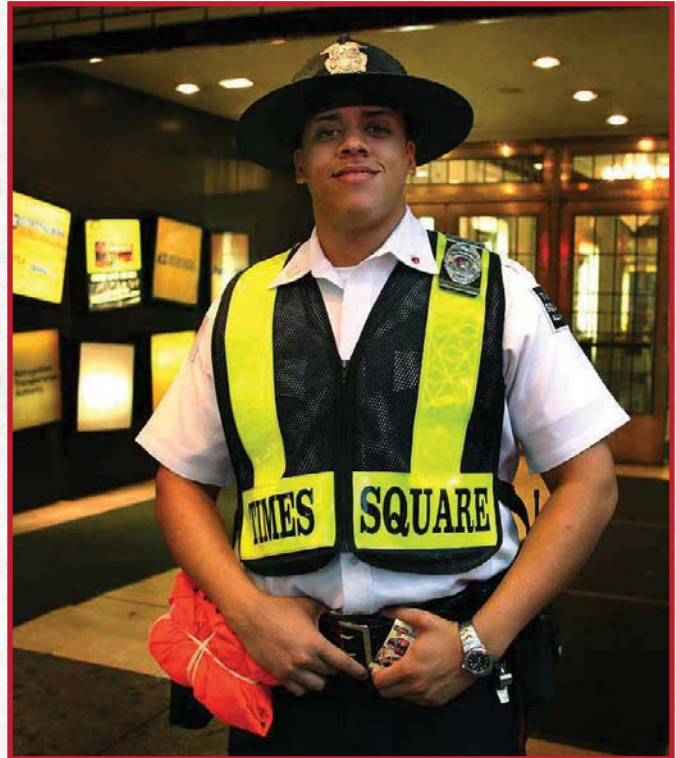




Theodore Roosevelt served as the leader of the New York City Police Commission. Police forces are extremely important to the overall safety of our country. Police officers should protect and serve their communities and treat everyone fairly and justly. Likewise, people in their communities should treat their local police officers with respect.



*Teddy Roosevelt as New York City police commissioner*



*Modern-day New York City police officer*

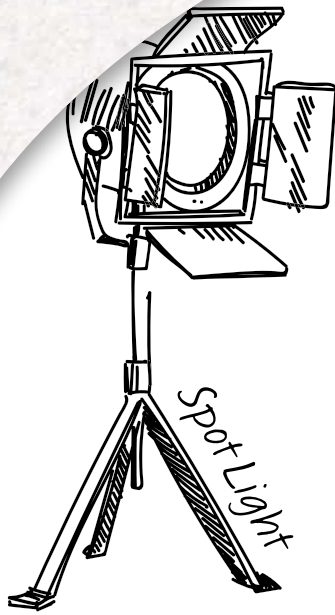
## THOUGHTS TO REMEMBER

1. Theodore Roosevelt was gung-ho and honest.
2. Theodore Roosevelt served in the Spanish-American War. He organized and led a volunteer cavalry unit called the Rough Riders.

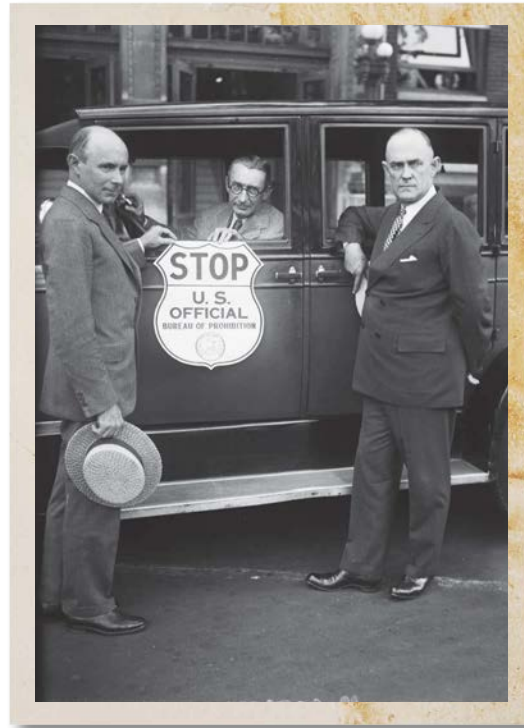


## CHAPTER 7

# AMERICA AFTER WWI



**Starting Point:** After World War I, Americans were nervous about a 'new' type of government that had taken over Russia, but Americans also wanted to forget the troubles of the war years. The Roaring 20s would be remembered as a stormy time in our country's history.

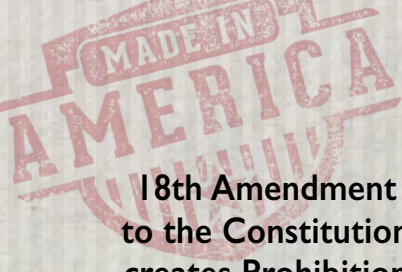


**Prohibition Agents:** During the 1920s, alcoholic beverages were banned. Reformers thought this would end drinking in the country, but it had the opposite effect.



1. How did life in America change at this time?
2. What were some of the problems facing the United States in the 1920s?





18th Amendment  
to the Constitution  
creates Prohibition

January 1919

19th Amendment  
gives women the  
right to vote

August 1920

Warren G. Harding  
elected president

November 1920

Harding dies, Calvin  
Coolidge becomes  
president

August 2, 1923

After the war was over, Americans just wanted to go back to normal. They were exhausted by the death and destruction of the war, and flu pandemic. So, when President Wilson wanted America to join what was called the League of Nations to keep the peace, many Americans were against it because they felt that it would lead them into another war in Europe.

Rather than getting involved in world events, Americans in the 1920s were more concerned about what was happening at home. On the surface, life was good as people were making and spending more money than ever. America was a “get rich quick” nation after the war was over.

Prohibition was in effect also during the 1920s. For years, progressives had supported banning selling and drinking alcohol. They considered it a threat to American morality. In 1920, shortly after the war had ended, Prohibition went into effect. This did not keep people from drinking or selling alcohol, however! Secret nightclubs called speakeasies were abundant, with the alcohol being supplied by bootleggers, people who illegally made it. If anything, the fact that alcohol was illegal seemed to encourage people to drink it even more than before. Crime also became a significant problem in cities like Chicago as rival bootleggers like Al Capone and “Bugs” Moran fought over business.

JAZZ: a type of music developed by African Americans in New Orleans in the early 1900s



Scene from the 1921 silent film  
THE CITY OF SILENT MEN



THE KID was a popular Charlie Chaplin  
movie in 1921.



In 1920, women finally won the right to vote in the United States. But voting was not the only thing women were doing for the first time. Increasing numbers of women were going to college and working outside the home. Fashion changes also caused women to start wearing clothing that only a decade earlier would have been unimaginable. In the 1910s, women wore floor-length dresses, but in the 1920s, women were wearing knee-length dresses. They were also cutting their hair short and wearing makeup—things that were also not done in previous years. Hats went from elaborate styles adorned with feathers and flowers to relatively simple, smaller cloche styles. Cloche is the French word for “bell.” That is the basic shape of these hats. The women who wore these new styles were known as “flappers.” Women were also actively participating in violating Prohibition laws.

Part of the reason for these changes was a reaction against the gloom of the war years. People were determined to forget the horrors of the war by “having fun.” The popularity of breaking Prohibition laws also made rebellion against other social norms, like wearing long dresses and having long hair, more common. New innovations were also giving women more free time, just as increased wages were making it easier for people to afford things like refrigerators, cars, and washing machines.

The extra money to spend and the extra time to play meant that both young men and women were dancing the night away to the new sounds of jazz. The Charleston was a very popular dance. Many famous jazz musicians became well-known during this time period. Though racism and segregation continued to be a problem in the United States, the popularity of jazz helped make an aspect of African American culture a part of everyday life for Americans of all races.

Other forms of entertainment were also popular and changing. Have you ever watched a silent movie from this time? We may laugh at them now because the actors seem overly dramatic, but for people who had only ever watched actors on stage, this new form of entertainment was exciting. Silent movies with their elaborate sets and costumes drew huge crowds, and popular actors and actresses like Charlie Chaplin and Mary Pickford became well-known celebrities. In 1927, the new world of film became even more advanced as *The Jazz Singer* became the first “talkie,” movie with sound.

Radio was also popular all over America, and even the most rural farm family could gather around their radio to listen to one of the

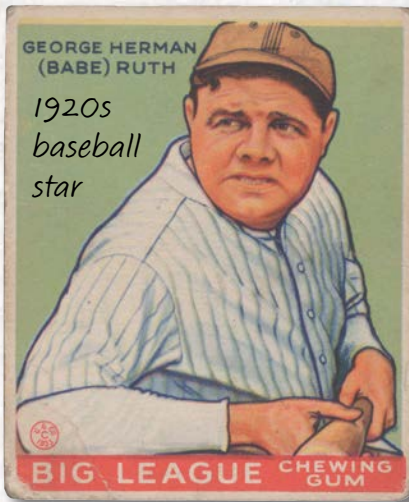


*Jazz great Louis Armstrong*



*Many families listened to their radio regularly.*





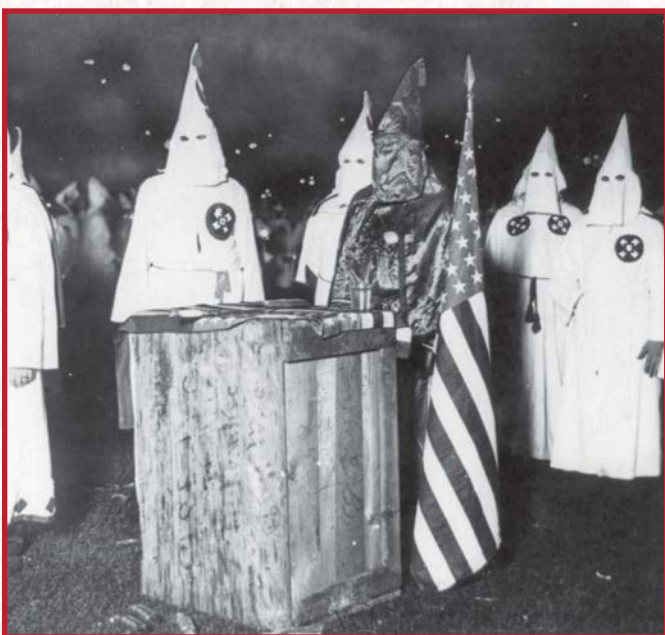
many radio “shows.” Sports were also a huge draw, with famous athletes becoming celebrities as well known as the most popular actors. Families crowded around their radio to listen to baseball games and cheered on their favorite players. George Herman Ruth, more commonly known as “Babe” Ruth, was the best-known baseball player of the day. For the first time, football became a popular national sport, and boxing also had a lot of fans in the 1920s. It also became increasingly popular for everyday people to play sports in their free time, especially golfing and tennis.

## NARRATION BREAK

*Describe America after WWI.*

Even though the 1920s may seem like it was nothing but fun, not everything was as it seemed. Across the country, people became nervous as labor unions started strikes to try to win higher wages. Was all this a sign of a communist revolt? It had only been a few years since the October Revolution had brought communists to power in the Soviet Union. Many Americans were terrified that the labor strikes were the beginning of communism taking hold in America.

Panic can lead to bad things happening. This was the case in the “Great Red Scare” when thousands of people were arrested in police raids. These suspected “Reds” (this is what they called communists) were kept in jail for weeks without even being formally charged with anything. Most Americans thought this was an outrage. When these so-called communists didn’t take over the government the way they were expected to, the “Great Red Scare” faded away.



*Ku Klux Klan rally in Chicago, 1920*



*Prohibition agents looking for hidden alcohol during a raid*



Distrust and prejudice were running rampant in the country. The Ku Klux Klan was re-birthing. If you were with us in Volume 2, you remember that the Klan was originally founded after the Civil War in the South. It existed to intimidate and terrorize African Americans, as well as prevent them from voting and enjoying other freedoms protected by the Constitution.

This new Klan was similar in some ways to the original one, but it was also different. Whereas the first Klan was located solely in the South, the 1920s Klan was located around the country. Americans from the Midwestern and Western states were now members. For example, the family of Malcolm X, a civil rights leader you will learn about later in this book, were harassed by Klan members in the Midwestern state of Nebraska in the mid-1920s. Many of these 1920s members were well-to-do and prominent in their local towns and were quite open about their Klan affiliations.

Another difference was the focus of the Klan's hatred. In the 19th century, the Klan had targeted African Americans. In the 1920s, the Klan were not just after African Americans but also Jews, Catholics, immigrants, and any other minority group they deemed "dangerous to the 'pioneer heritage' of America." By the mid-1920s, the KKK's membership rose into the millions. There were even Klan members in office as governors and congressmen. The Klan still exists today but in much smaller numbers and without the wide social acceptance it experienced in the 1920s.

In addition, small farms went under by the thousands in this decade, as prices dropped and debt skyrocketed. One of the problems was that farmers had increased production for the war to help feed Europe. Once the war was over, however, this excess production was not necessary. It became hard for farmers to sell all their crops, and prices for farm products in general fell. In fact, though many people associate the 1920s with fun and new fashions, that did not reflect the reality for many people in rural areas, who were barely making enough money to get by.

Though most Americans were convinced that the good times of prosperity in America would just keep rolling along, there were warning signs that the economy was heading for disaster. We'll learn more about the economic disaster that brought the 1920s to a close, as well as some of the factors that caused it, in our next chapter.

The little town of Dayton, Tennessee was the center of one of the most influential trials in American history in 1925. The famous Scopes Trial centered around teaching evolution in public schools.

The Bible states that God created the world, people, and all living things during Creation. Evolution is the belief that life didn't start this way. This idea was popularized by a British scientist named Charles Darwin in the 19th century. Evolutionary ideas directly contradict biblical truths.



*Aftermath of the still unsolved 1920 Wall Street bombing.*





*The Scopes trial attracted the curious, as well as supporters of both sides.*

Soon, scientists began to accept evolution as fact. This led to a debate about whether it should be taught in schools. It was illegal to teach Darwin's claims about evolution in Tennessee state schools, and an organization called the ACLU wanted someone to break the law so that they could challenge it in court.

George Washington Rappleyea was a local engineer in Dayton, Tennessee. He did not believe in evolution, but he thought this would be a good opportunity to draw money and attention to the town. Other people in the community agreed. A local teacher, John T. Scopes, pretended that he had been teaching

evolution. Even though he later admitted that he didn't teach evolution, he was charged with breaking the law. His students were persuaded to go along with the lie.

William Jennings Bryan, a prominent politician, volunteered to prosecute the case. He was horrified by Darwin's teachings about evolution because they contradicted the Bible and justified racism against minorities. Darwin claimed there were several races, with some better than others, while the Bible clearly teaches there is only one race — the human race — created by God.

One of the most famous lawyers in the country, Clarence Darrow, volunteered to work for Scopes. He didn't really know much about evolution, and he didn't care. Darrow didn't believe in God and was eager to take on the case to make Christianity look bad.

As the town residents had hoped, the trial drew large crowds and lots of media attention. The trial really was not about whether Scopes was guilty. Instead, it focused on whether evolution was legitimate and whether it should be taught in schools.

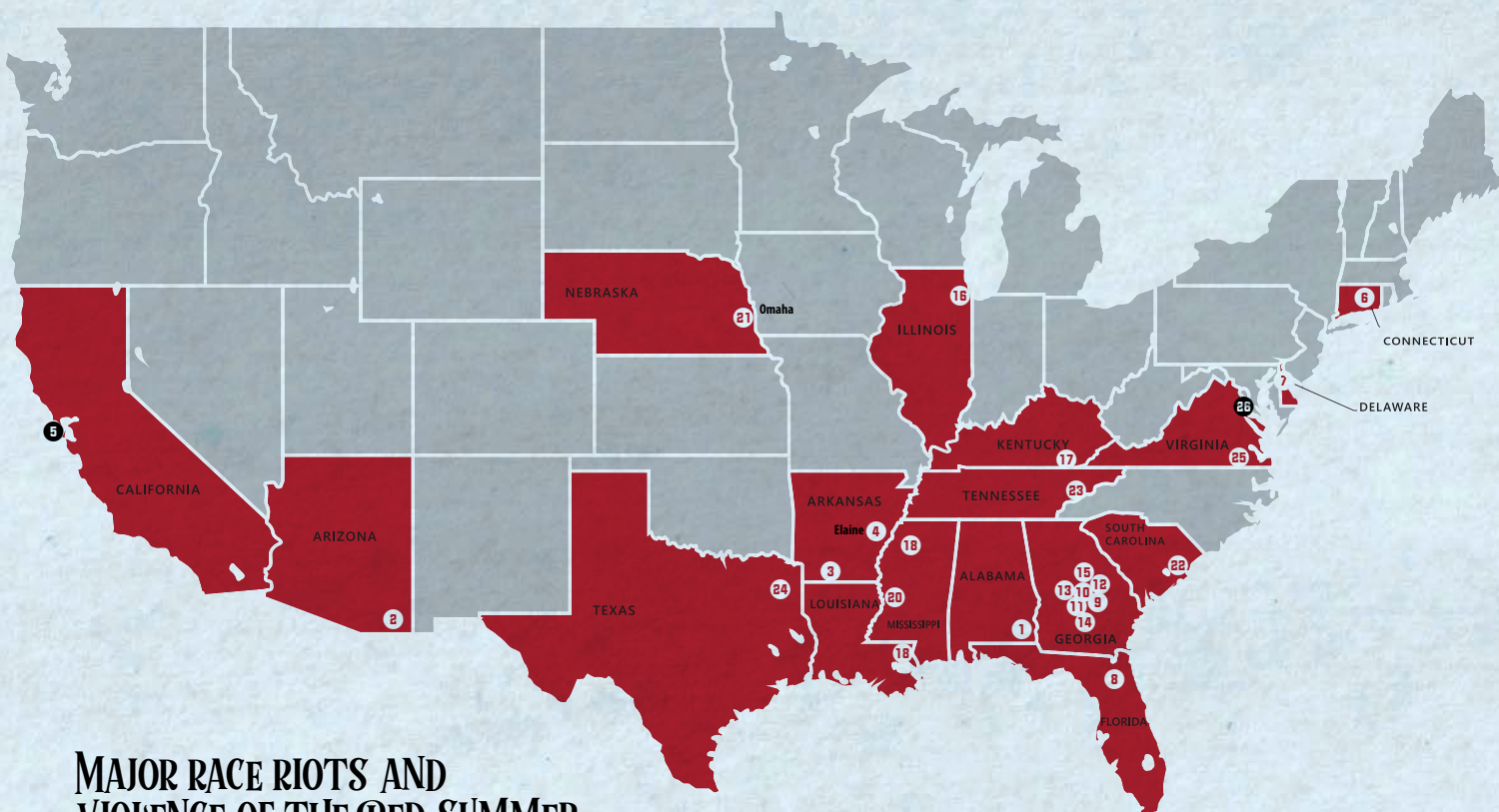
A lot of the media coverage framed the story as being a fight between informed scientists and ignorant Christians. That wasn't what was really happening, but that's what Darrow was hoping people would think was going on. Darrow manipulated the trial to make Bryan look bad. Though Bryan was able to point out some of the flaws in evolution and he won the case, most people thought Darrow had won. That was what Darrow wanted all along. He knew that Scopes would be found guilty, but he was more interested in influencing the general public's thoughts than he was the jury's.

This trial marked a turning point in American history—but not a good one. Because of the media coverage of the event, evolution was considered a valid scientific theory, and it now was okay to question the Bible and the Biblical account of Creation. The influence of this case is still felt today. By the 1960s, evolution was being taught in all public schools as an accepted fact. Even today, teachers are not allowed to share the true biblical account of Creation in public schools, and sadly, evolution is widely presented in popular culture now, often with no mention of its flaws.

## NARRATION BREAK

*Talk about some of the problems America faced.*





## MAJOR RACE RIOTS AND VIOLENCE OF THE RED SUMMER

The tragic events of the Red Summer of 1919 were caused by a combination of racial tension and paranoia about communism. As we talked about in a previous chapter, many African Americans moved out of the South to escape racism and poverty. They found good-paying jobs in northern cities like Chicago as white workers left their jobs to enlist. Other African Americans also enlisted and served in the military.

When the veterans returned, racial tension simmered. Whites were angry that their old jobs were no longer available and had been taken by African Americans. For their part, African Americans were angry that they still were treated unequally. Many became vocal supporters of labor unions and equality. Unfortunately, many Americans were fearful of a communist uprising, like the one that had recently toppled the Russian government, and they were deeply suspicious of anything they considered radical.

In this atmosphere, a wave of violent riots and murders swept across the country. Dozens were killed and injured and a lot of property was also destroyed. One of the key differences between these incidents and previous acts of racial violence is that African Americans, many of whom were war veterans, organized a defense and fought back. It would be many more years before segregation was ended, but this was a turning point in African American history. The map shows some of the places where race riots and /or violence took place.

- 1 Montgomery, Alabama
- 2 Bisbee, Arizona
- 3 El Dorado, Arkansas
- 4 Elaine, Arkansas
- 5 San Francisco, California
- 6 New London, Connecticut
- 7 Wilmington, Delaware
- 8 Lake City, Florida
- 9 Cadwell, Georgia
- 10 Dublin, Georgia
- 11 Hawkinsville, Georgia
- 12 Jenkins Co., Georgia
- 13 Macon, Georgia
- 14 Milan, Georgia
- 15 Warrenton, Georgia
- 16 Chicago, Illinois
- 17 Corbin, Kentucky
- 18 Bogalusa, Louisiana
- 19 Ellisville, Mississippi
- 20 Vicksburg, Mississippi
- 21 Omaha, Nebraska
- 22 Charleston, South Carolina
- 23 Knoxville, Tennessee
- 24 Longview, Texas
- 25 Norfolk, Virginia
- 26 Washington, D.C.



# 1920s FASHION



◀ Flapper wearing a cloche-style hat and with her galoshes unbuckled, another 1920s fashion trend

1920s ▶  
sportswear



▲ Even President Coolidge's dog wore flapper fashion

◀ Dancing the Charleston

This man is dressed in a formal walking suit, c. 1925. ▶





These women are all wearing fashionable shorter skirts in 1923. ▶

Hats of 1920 ▼



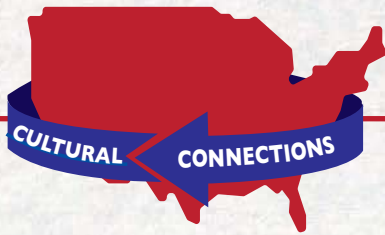
Plaid was very popular, as were other patterns, during this time. ▶



This photograph from the 1910s shows the type of clothing the flappers were rebelling against. Do you notice how different the clothes are from the others on this feature page? ▼







Farming now is a lot different from in the 1920s, though some things are still the same. One of the things that has changed are the tools and equipment that is used by farmers. In the 1920s, tractors existed, but a lot of farmers still used plows and horses or mules to work their fields. Now, almost all farmers have tractors, and many also use other machines to plant and harvest their crops. Farming is still hard work, but these machines have helped make farming more efficient. The modern homesteading movement has increased in popularity in recent years. Modern homesteaders encourage self-sufficiency and a revival of traditional farming skills, including plowing with a horse or mule!



*Farmer in 1909 plowing*



*Farmer on a modern-day tractor*

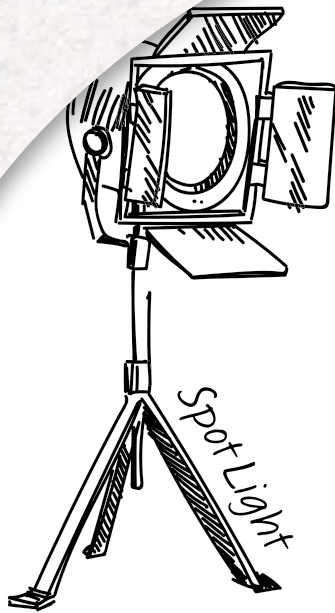
## THOUGHTS TO REMEMBER

1. People were happy that the war was over, and they wanted to celebrate. It also became fashionable to break rules and rebel. People had more free time and extra money to spend, so leisure activities became much more popular.
2. People were afraid of communism, and that led to the Red Scare. The Ku Klux Klan re-formed and was terrorizing African Americans, Jews, Catholics, and others across the country.



## CHAPTER 14

# THE COLD WAR



**Starting Point:** The years following the end of World War II were a little rough as Americans tried to go back to normal life. The threat of the spread of communism created an uneasiness in the world, and soon American soldiers found themselves back on the battlefields of war.

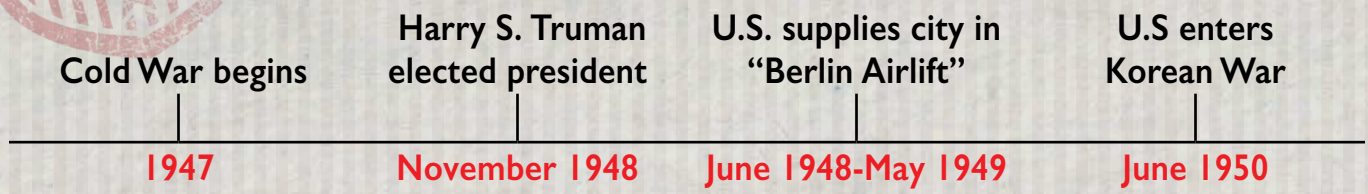


**American soldiers on patrol in Korea, 1951:** Within a few years of World War II ending, American soldiers were fighting another war in Korea. A sizable number of service members who served in Korea served in World War II as well.



1. Why did America and the Soviet Union stop being allies?
2. What is containment?





After the war was over, many nations joined together to bring peace and regrowth to the war-ravaged countries in Europe and Asia. The United States was in the best position to do this since its economy was strong and the country had not suffered the devastation that had happened elsewhere. Countries that had been occupied by the Axis or bombed during the war had lost their economic power and even basic transportation and communication in many cases. Millions of people were dead, and millions more were without homes or jobs. The governments were often not functioning. After the last world war, America had not been interested in getting involved with international affairs, but that had changed. America took the lead now.

American soldiers were part of the occupation of both Germany and Japan. The American military also oversaw trials of people who had committed war crimes against civilians and soldiers. America provided loans to Western European countries to rebuild as part of the Marshall Plan. Named after George C. Marshall, Truman's Secretary of State and Roosevelt's Chief of Staff during the war, this plan provided food, fuel, equipment, and investments to European countries to prevent starvation and also to help them revive their economies.



*Rebuilding Germany under the Marshall Plan*

Though not covered by the Marshall Plan, countries in East Asia that had suffered under Japanese occupation also received aid and loans to rebuild. America joined with its World War II allies, including the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, China, and France, to form the United Nations, a "general international organization dedicated to international peace and security."

Even as America worked with other countries to help the world recover from the war, the alliance with the Soviet Union began to crumble. Do you remember learning about the formation of the Soviet Union and communism? The Soviet Union was a communist state, which meant that it believed in abolishing social class and private property. The Soviet Union was ruled by a dictator named Joseph Stalin. He had been very cruel to his own people. In fact, even though the Soviet Union and America had a shared enemy in 1941 in Nazi Germany, some Americans opposed the alliance because of the Soviet Union's communism, mistreatment of its citizens, and previous



alliance with Nazi Germany. Many others recognized the alliance was needed but simply did not trust the Soviet Union.

One of the other tenets of communism is spreading communism to other countries. The very idea of that is something that had frightened people in the 1920s and led to the Red Scare. After World War II had ended, the Soviet Union took advantage of the war-weakened countries of Eastern Europe and moved to install communist satellite governments that were under their control.

America did not like this, and one of the reasons so much aid was provided to Western Europe was to strengthen these countries against the threat of Soviet and communist expansion. The tension got so bad between the United States and the Soviet Union that the two became engaged in the Cold War with each other. This conflict lasted from 1947 until 1991. It was called a "cold war" because the countries never directly fought each other.

One reason they never engaged in combat is people were sick of war. The world was just coming out of the most devastating war it had ever experienced, and there had already been two deadly, destructive world wars within a span of thirty years. The atomic bombings of Japan added another fear. After America had used these devastating weapons against its enemy, other countries were also racing to acquire such weapons. It became an arms race, and the Soviet Union desperately wanted its own atomic bombs. By 1949, the Soviets had atomic weapons, and soon, each side was racing to find even more powerful bombs. Great fear existed, though, that if America and the Soviet Union went to war, one side would use such a bomb, which would trigger the other side to the same. These actions would absolutely devastate the world, and fear of something like this happening also ensured that the countries did not ever declare war on each other.

## NARRATION BREAK

*Talk about how America helped countries rebuild after the war.*



*During the Cold War, people built fallout shelters in case of a nuclear bomb. They were intended to provide protection from the radioactive debris that falls out of the sky after a nuclear explosion.*



Though an actual war did not break out between the Soviet Union and the United States, the two countries were hostile toward each other and also scrambled for control of smaller countries. The United States foreign policy at this time became containment. The best way to stop the Soviet Union was to prevent it from getting a foothold in another country, according to this theory. So, when the Soviets would try to start funding, equipping, and training rebels in a foreign country with the hopes of setting up a communist government, the United States would intervene and fund, equip, and train anti-communist forces.



*Blood shipment for American military in Korea*

One of the countries America sought to prevent communism in was **Korea**. It had been under Japanese control for a few decades. Following Japan's surrender in 1945, American administrators divided Korea, with the United States troops occupying the southern part. The North, which was occupied by Soviet troops, was quickly placed under a communist government.

On June 25, 1950, **North Korea** invaded **South Korea**, and the United Nations came to South Korea's aid. After the U.N. came and forced the North Koreans out, China, which had recently become communist as well, jumped into the fight! Would this end up being a continuation of WWII? This kind of war, with two or more major powers fighting each other through a third party (North and South Korea), is called a proxy war.

By this time, Americans were thoroughly sick of war. Though most people agreed that America, as a part of the



*American ship and planes during the Korean War*

United Nations, could not allow communism to spread into smaller and weaker nations, there was also a desire for peace. President Truman called America's involvement in this struggle a "policing action" rather than a war. Nevertheless, over 35,000 American servicemen were killed and over another 100,000 were wounded in this conflict.



The length of the Korean War made Truman unpopular with the American people. He had also been involved with a bitter fight with General Douglas MacArthur over how to conduct the war. MacArthur was the general who had been ordered to leave the Philippines in 1942 and then had returned in 1944. After the war was over, he had overseen the occupation of Japan before being put in charge of the Korean War. MacArthur believed the war should be



Harry S. Truman



Dwight D. Eisenhower

extended against communist China while Truman did not agree. The president feared such actions would prompt another world war, just five years after the previous one had ended. MacArthur was vocal about his disagreements with the president, which caused Truman to replace him with another general. This move angered Americans because MacArthur was still a popular war hero. As the war dragged on with no clear end in sight, Truman did not seek re-election in 1952.

Another war hero, Dwight D. Eisenhower, was elected as president that year. You may remember learning about him when we studied WWII — he was the leading general of the Allied army in Europe and oversaw the D-Day invasions. Eisenhower supported the policy of containment and also promised an end to the Korean War. Within a few months of his inauguration and after nearly three years of fighting, an armistice was signed. This was not an official peace treaty, but it ended the fighting in July 1953. Korea was to remain divided, with a communist north and a non-communist south.

Beyond battling for control of satellite states, the Soviet Union and United States were competing in other ways, as well. The 1950s also marked the beginning of the great space race. The two countries raced against each other to be the first to launch a man-made satellite into space. The Soviets won when they launched Sputnik 1 in January of 1958.

As we will learn in our next chapter, the 1950s were a productive and successful decade, but there was also lingering unrest. With the Korean War, Americans became more aware of the troubles on the other side of the world, and now with that knowledge came a new underlying fear. It seemed that the “trust level” that the United States had for other nations had been lowered considerably.

**OCCUPATION:** when a military is stationed in a former enemy's land to maintain order

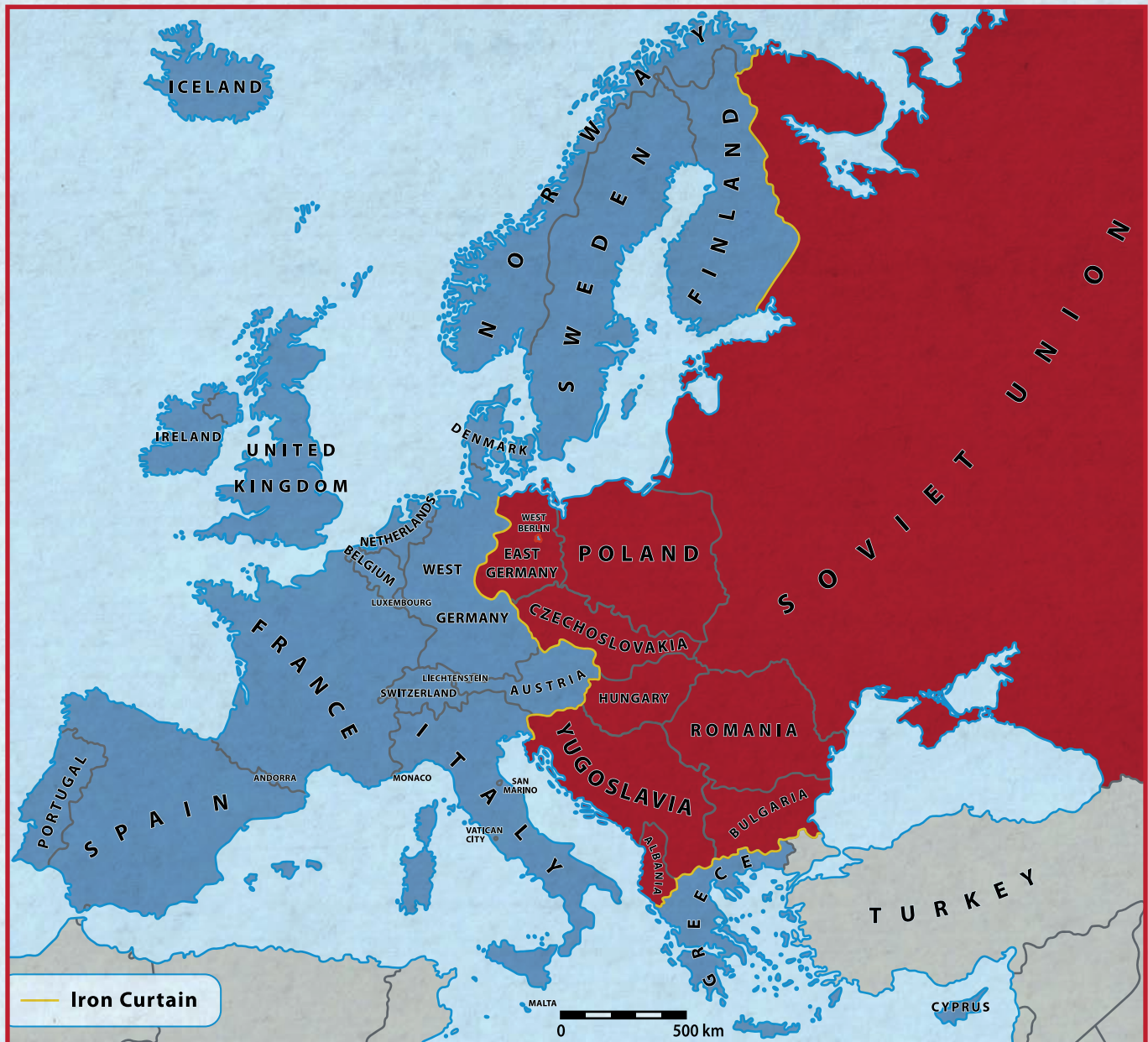
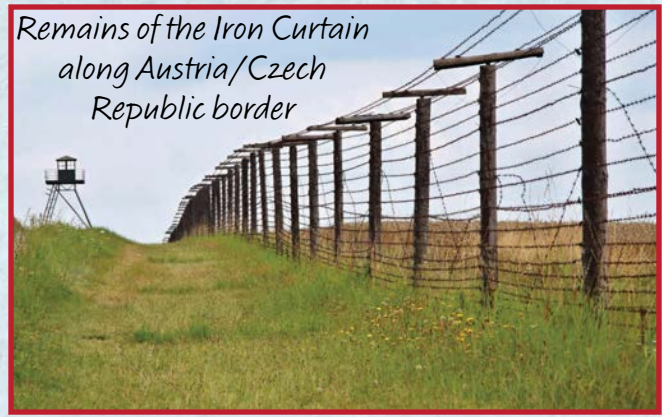
## NARRATION BREAK

*Tell what you learned about the Korean War.*

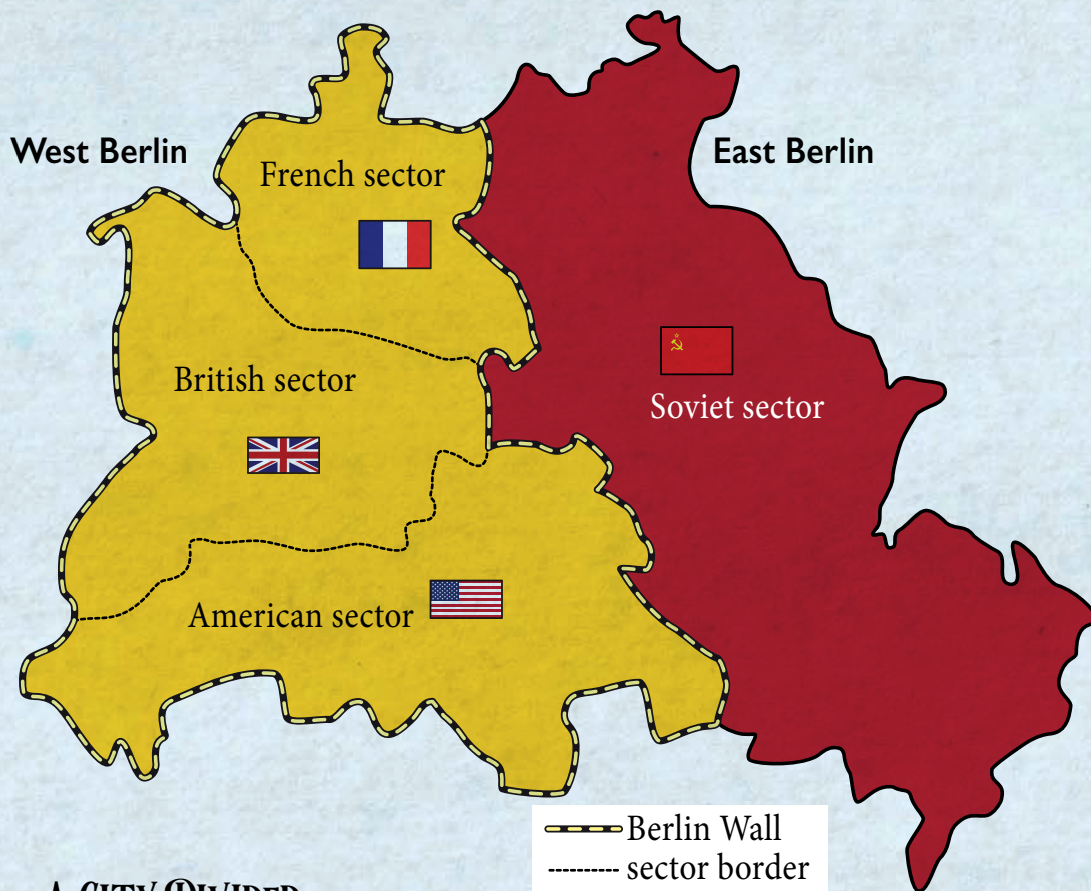


## COLD WAR

After the war, troops from the Allied nations (United States, France, the Soviet Union, and Great Britain) occupied much of Europe and had to come up with a plan to rebuild the devastated areas. While some Americans wanted to leave Europe for the Europeans to fix after all the fighting and destruction, the American government chose to take the lead on the global stage. This put it directly at odds with the government of the Soviet Union, leading to a number of crises and interventions in other countries – this became known as the Cold War. The Iron Curtain was the line that divided communist and non-communist countries in Europe after WWII.







## BERLIN – A CITY DIVIDED

Germany's part in World War II ended when Germany unconditionally surrendered. The Soviets had already taken the city of Berlin and other Allied forces had seized large portions of the country and its remaining soldiers. The Allies argued among themselves about how to reconstruct the city and help make it self-sufficient. Stalin thought the Americans and other Allied countries would leave in a few years and there was a possibility of uniting all of Germany under Soviet control.

As disagreements grew, the Soviet Union began to keep people, goods, and other materials from leaving East Germany or coming in from West Germany. In October of 1949, East Germany became the German Democratic Republic (though it was anything but democratic or a republic)—a communist government that had little control over itself. This left the Soviet Union ultimately in control.

West Germany took the opposite path. It developed a vibrant capitalistic economy and a democratic government – leading to a higher quality of life. Many East Germans wanted to enjoy the opportunities, freedom, and prosperity in West Germany. East Germany feared the country could not survive with the numbers of people leaving the country, so citizens were forbidden from leaving and in 1961 construction of a wall between the two countries began. The wall would remain until 1989, when through a series of events, the East German public began massing at the wall, demanding the freedom to go beyond the wall. The East German government began tearing it down, and the two halves of the divided city and country at last became one nation again.



## AMERICA IN GERMANY AFTER WWII



◀ In 1948, the Soviet Union blockaded the Allied-controlled parts of Berlin. They hoped it would make the Allies leave. Instead Americans used cargo planes to bring in needed supplies. This began the Berlin Airlift – an amazing feat as a fleet of American cargo planes would bring over 1,500 tons of food each day to feed the almost 2 million at risk in the city.

American planes were loaded with vital supplies like milk, flour, and other essentials for the starving city. ▼



Families had been shattered and the most vulnerable people in the population were starving. ▶





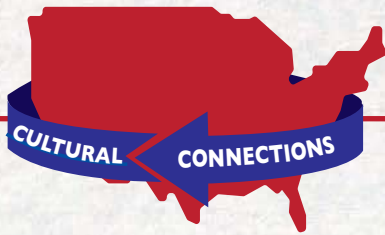


▲ When Allied troops discovered the concentration camps where millions of Jewish families and others had been murdered and abused on a massive scale, America led the way in making sure those who had planned and executed this terrible atrocity would pay. Though the Nazis had tried to destroy much of the evidence of their crimes against humanity, enough remained to prove their guilt in the Nuremberg trials. In addition to seeking justice, the Nuremberg Trial records remain a powerful witness to the crimes committed in Nazi Germany that no one can deny.



▲ Germany was in ruins — no economy, no food, and a lack of basic services.





In the early 1900s, America tended to avoid getting involved in other countries' disputes. They believed that it was not their concern what was going on elsewhere. That "isolationist" attitude started to change during the world wars. This was especially true once America emerged as one of the world's superpowers after World War II. Some believed it was America's responsibility to fight to defend more vulnerable countries. American involvement in the Korean War was referred to as a policing action by President Truman. Now, America's military forces are often deployed on peacekeeping missions to other countries. These missions are not supposed to involve combat, though that can happen. Instead, the focus is providing security in unstable situations around the world. Today, just like during the world wars, Americans debate how much we should be involved in these efforts.



*American army surgical unit in Korea, 1951*



*American doctor providing medical assistance to an Iraqi civilian, 2003*

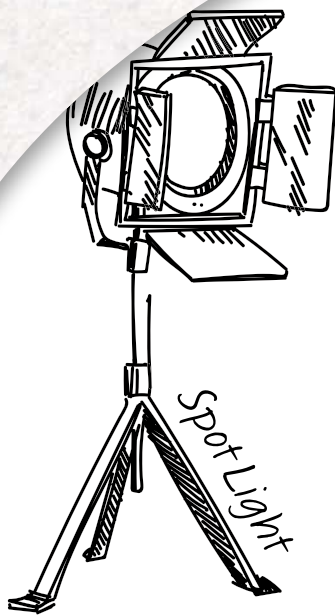
## THOUGHTS TO REMEMBER

1. The United States never really trusted the Soviet Union, and after World War II was over, the Soviets started taking advantage of war-weakened countries to spread communism.
2. Containment was the policy the United States adopted to stop the spread of communism. It involved U.S. intervention in other countries to prevent communist governments from forming.



## CHAPTER 21

# THE 1980s, PART ONE



**Starting Point:** America had gone through a lot of trouble and uncertainty in the 1960s and 1970s. There had been turmoil and economic difficulties. But in the 1980s, there was a new president, Ronald Reagan. He believed in a small government, and he went to work to rebuild the economy and the military.



**Ronald Reagan Minuteman Missile Site in North Dakota:** Ronald Reagan believed in the importance of a strong military and strong defenses for the United States. He developed the Strategic Defense Initiative, a space-based program that would intercept incoming missiles. In the 2000s, this former missile site in North Dakota was named after him and now exists as a museum.



1. What were Ronald Reagan's economic policies as president?
2. Why was the *Challenger* tragedy so shocking to Americans?





By 1980, Americans were desperate for a change. Inflation was worse than it had been since the Great Depression. Inflation occurs when prices rise but the value of money falls. So, some people were unable to buy items they had previously been able to afford. Americans were worried about their economic future.

To make matters worse, there was a constant threat of nuclear war. Since the invention of the atomic bomb during World War II, nuclear warfare became the primary threat, especially through the Cold War. You might remember this from the Cuban Missile Crisis in Chapter 16. The United States and the Soviet Union continued to build up their nuclear stockpiles, with the promise that if one country struck first, the other would immediately strike back. The result of such a nuclear fight would have completely destroyed both countries and the surrounding areas, changing the global climate for centuries to come. This is known as mutually assured destruction, or MAD, which prevented either side from ever using their nuclear weapons. Still, there was the fear throughout the Cold War that a nuclear fight could occur.

The 1970s and Carter's presidency ended with a hostage situation in *Iran*. Muslim extremists were holding more than 50 American embassy workers



Ronald Reagan

hostage with the intent to overthrow the reigning Shah, or King, of Iran. The Iran hostage crisis was a long and complicated process, which ended in the hostages being released after 444 days of captivity. The United States made two rescue attempts, but both failed, and the hostages remained in captivity through the 1980 presidential election. The American hostages were not released until after Carter left office, and the crisis was part of the reason why Carter did not win re-election. Iran did not release the American hostages until after Ronald Reagan gave his inaugural speech in January of 1981.

President Reagan, our 40th president, had been an actor when he was younger and then became interested in politics. He served as the governor of California from 1967–1975. Reagan was a Republican president, and most of his actions as president reflected that.





*President Reagan waves to crowd shortly before the assassination attempt.*

President Reagan approached the economic crisis head on. It was his opinion that government should be much smaller than what it had become under President Carter. “In this present crisis, government is not the solution to our problems; government is the problem,” Reagan said in his inaugural speech on January 20, 1981. Reagan promised an end to a decade of high government involvement, inflation, and high taxes. But not everyone was excited about President Reagan taking office. In March of 1981, just a few months after being sworn into office, President Reagan was shot in an attempted assassination. His wounds were not fatal, though, despite being shot in the chest. Three other men were hurt in the attack.

By the mid-80s, the country had responded to the change in the White House. President Reagan was fast becoming a hero for conservatives. His governing method was called “Reaganomics.” Reaganomics called for reduced government spending, reduced federal income tax, reduced government regulation, and reduced inflation. Although Reaganomics did help improve the American economy, some have noted that his policies helped richer Americans and business more than average citizens. Nevertheless, the American economic situation improved through the 1980s under Reagan's presidency.

**SUBSIDY:** money paid by the government to a business

In 1982, oil prices dropped, greatly helping the economy in its upswing. President Reagan also worked to build up America's defenses. He warned that America needed to be a formidable power. He built up the armed forces and America's arsenal of nuclear weapons. Reagan believed it was his duty to restore America to greatness after several years of downturn.

## NARRATION BREAK

*Talk about what you learned today about the 1980s.*





1981 migrant farm worker protest



The Midwest was hit hard by the farm crisis, which caused land prices to drop.

President Reagan was re-elected in 1984. He ran against Democrat Walter Mondale and the first woman to be nominated for a high office of a major political party, Geraldine Ferraro. Reagan campaigned on his ability to fix the economic problems and restore people's faith in the U.S. government. Although Reagan won the 1984 election by a landslide, people were concerned that President Reagan was putting the country deep into debt.

Some did not like President Reagan because they felt he was not a good president for farmers. There was a growing farm crisis in the heartland created by decades of government subsidies, market controls, low interest rates on loans, and high fuel costs. Farmers were producing more crops than there were markets to buy them, and they were unable to pay back the loans they owed. Many family-owned farms closed during the 1980s and were bought by corporations. Just like the other presidents living in previous decades, President Reagan was not just dealing with events and circumstances that he created or that were created during his term. He was dealing with many long-lasting economic issues left over from the years before he came to office. Even though there were those who did not like him, President Reagan remains one of the most popular presidents to ever have held office.

The 1980s were a time of great change. There has never been a single year of complete rest in this world since the Fall of man, so I am not going to tell you that the 1980s were a restful time for America. They were, in a way, just as tumultuous as the previous decades of the 60s and 70s.

During the 1970s, people felt like America was headed in the wrong direction. By the mid-1980s, though, conditions were starting to look better. But even this time of prosperity had its tragedies. One of those tragedies was the explosion of the *Challenger*. The United States continued to explore



Challenger spaceship explosion





*The Challenger crew a couple of weeks before their mission*

space after NASA first sent men to the moon in 1969. NASA was prepared to send people into space again in 1986. However, seven people—six astronauts and one schoolteacher—died seconds after takeoff when the shuttle exploded. Thousands of people were watching on television. People were stunned by what they saw. Sending people into space was a point of pride and

accomplishment, but seeing the *Challenger* explode in mid-air revealed how dangerous space travel can be.

Because many Americans were prosperous during the 1980s, there was a new level of lifestyle. Many of the babies born right after World War II, the “Baby Boomers,” were at the prime of their professions and living affluent lifestyles. The “Yuppie” lifestyle, as it was called, included big houses, expensive cars and clothes, and private schools for their children.

The fitness craze, which started in the 1970s, kicked into full gear in the 1980s. Aerobics, jogging, dancing, and bicycling were just a few of the popular exercises. Exercise videos, led by slim workout gurus clad in colorful exercise clothes, became immensely popular in this decade.



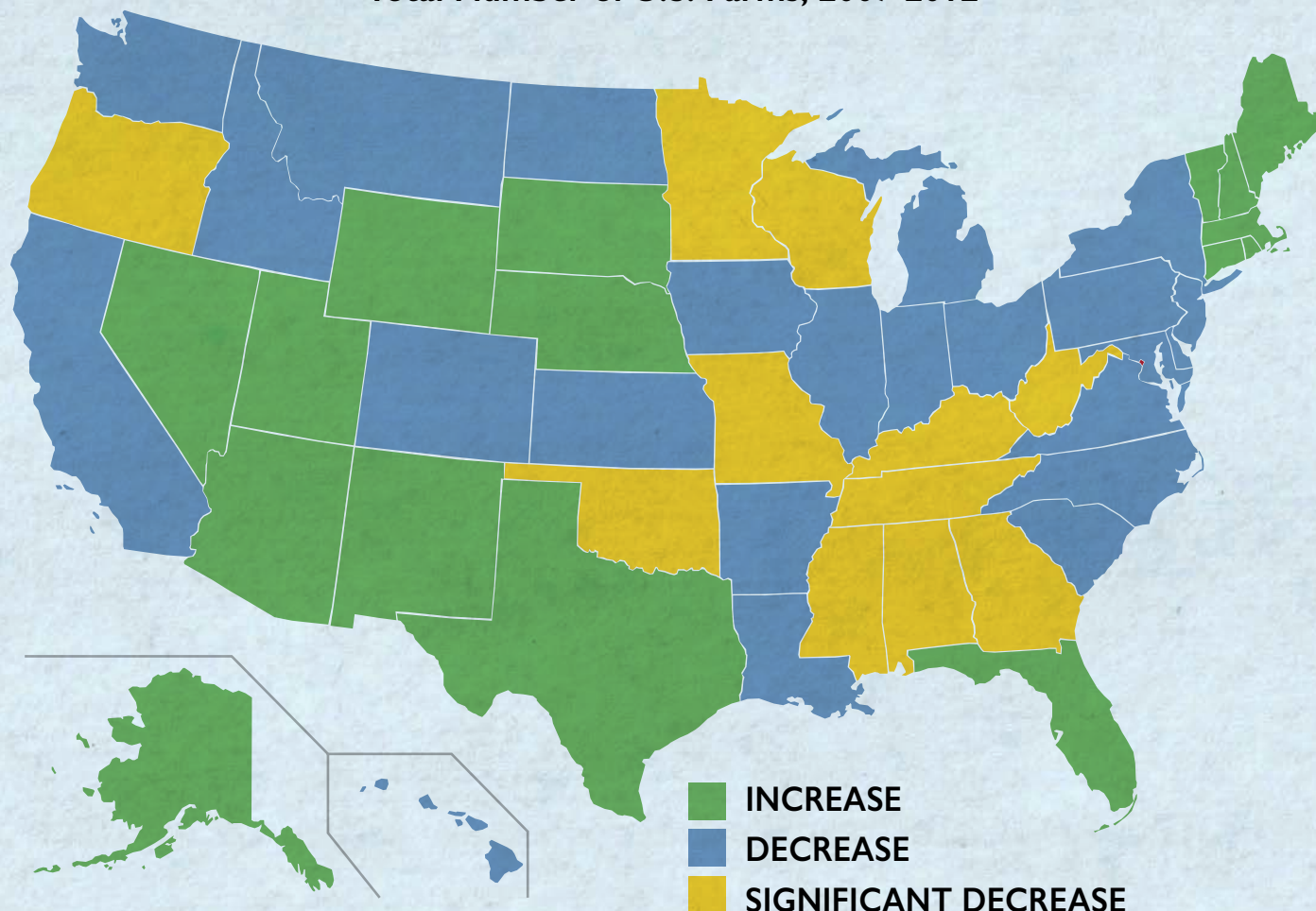
*1980s jogging outfit*

## NARRATION BREAK

*Retell what you learned about Reagan's presidency.*



## Total Number of U.S. Farms, 2007-2012



### AMERICAN FARMS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

The Farm Crisis of the 1980s-90s was a heartbreaking series of events that changed agriculture across the entire country. Farms had experienced great years in the 1970s, but were now facing a crisis. Many



families, most on small farms run by the same families for generations, were unable to pay back their loans and lost them to the banks when they foreclosed. News and television reports of farmer protests and sobbing families watching their possessions being auctioned off by the bank devastated rural America. It was a crisis not seen since the period of the Dust Bowl and the Great Depression.







## NASA SHUTTLE PROGRAM 1981-2011



◀ The launch of the first space shuttle in 1981 was an exciting time. Americans had developed reusable space ships, and it was a time of exploration and study that was exciting. With names like *Challenger*, *Discovery*, *Endeavour*, *Atlantis*, and *Columbia* – it seemed that mankind could do anything with advances of science and technology.

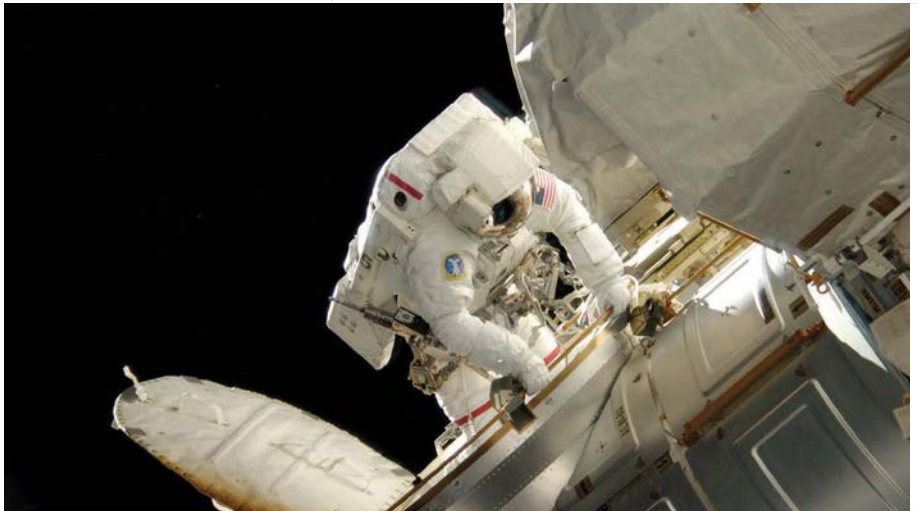


▲ Astronaut and physicist Sally Ride became the first American woman to reach space on board *Challenger* in 1983.





The shuttle *Columbia* in space with the undeployed space lab module in the cargo bay. Many of the shuttle missions contained these labs where specific experiments and tests could be completed. ▼



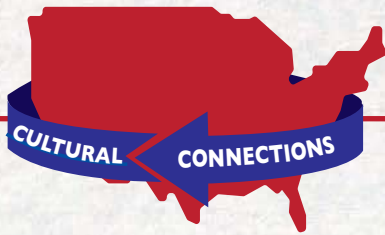
▲ The U.S. space shuttle fleet was also pivotal in transporting parts for constructing the International Space Station and supplies for it. Here the *Atlantis* crew member returns to the shuttle after a spacewalk.

When the shuttles had to use an alternate landing site, they would be “carried” home by an airplane. Flights of the aging shuttle program ended in 2011. ▼

◀ The shuttle *Discovery* carries a crew and equipment into space that will study life science and effects of low gravity in space. It also deployed the Hubble telescope in 1990.







President Reagan came into office at a time of inflation and slow economics. His commitment to getting and keeping the American government back inside of its boundaries, which are set by the Constitution, sets him apart as one of the most effective presidents of our time. Many Americans caught the wave of the economic upturn that followed Reagan's policies, and many of those Americans retired on comfortable pensions made and saved during those years. In many ways, America felt the effects of those prosperous years long after Reagan was in office.



*Planning for retirement can be a worrying challenge.*



*The retirement years can also be an exciting time of travel.*

## THOUGHTS TO REMEMBER

1. President Reagan favored cutting taxes and reducing government spending and regulations. He supported a smaller government.
2. The *Challenger* tragedy showed Americans how dangerous space travel could be.