**An Illustrated Storybook About the**

**Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression**

**Culminating Project**

**Overview**

This **Culminating Project** challenges students to create an illustrated storybook that answers this question: *What are the key lessons of the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression?* Working in pairs, students create storybooks with five sections: Post-World War I Tensions, Good Times of the 1920s, Causes of the Great Depression, The Human Impact of the Great Depression, and The New Deal. After outlining their ideas, students write storybooks—complete with text, illustrations, and artistic adornments—that describe the major events of the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression and the key lessons people can learn from them. The storybook is written for a fifth grade audience and should demonstrate a clear understanding of the unit’s major historical issues and legacies.

**Procedures in Detail**

1. This culminating project challenges students to create an illustrated storybook that describes the major events of the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression and the key lessons people can learn from them. The storybook should be written for a fifth grade audience. To create the storybooks, students are required to synthesize the key ideas from the unit’s most important topics. This culminating project may be used as the final activity of the unit or as a formal unit assessment.
2. Place students in mixed-ability pairs. Give each student **CP Student Handout A**: Creating an Illustrated Storybook About the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression, which clearly sets forth the project topic, overview, and requirements. Review these thoroughly with your students, and answer any questions they have. Emphasize that the focus of their storybooks is to describe the major events of the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression and the key lessons people can learn from them.
3. Pass out **CP Student Handout B**: Illustrated Storybook Project Evaluation to each student. Review the standards for assessment with students. Determine the points possible for each category. Allow students to complete the self-assessment column when they turn in their projects.
4. Once students have a general understanding of the project’s requirements and standards for assessment, pass out **CP Student Handout C**: Brainstorming Ideas for an Illustrated Storybook About the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression. Have pairs complete the matrix, which asks them to describe the major events of the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression, select images or make sketches to represent them, and explain the key lessons people can learn from the events. Before pairs begin the final drafts of their storybooks, have them bring their matrices to you. Carefully review what they have written, and encourage them to make their ideas clearly reflect important concepts in the unit.
5. Allow pairs adequate time to work on their storybooks. Encourage them to incorporate as much of their existing work from the unit into the storybook as possible, and help them to locate other resources. Remind students to write their storybooks for a 10-year-old audience and to make them colorful and visually appealing. (**Option**: You may want to show students examples of children’s storybooks to review with them the language appropriate for a 10-year-old audience.) Monitor progress by checking to make sure pairs incorporate all relevant information from **CP Student Handout C** into the final drafts of their storybooks.

**Presentations**

When students finish their storybooks, allow them to circulate around the room to read other students’ storybooks. If possible, arrange to have your students read their storybooks to elementary school classes, parents, and other interested members of the community.

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| **CP Student Handout A** |

**Creating an Illustrated Storybook About**

**the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression**

This culminating project challenges you to create an illustrated storybook that answers this question: *What are the key lessons of the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression?* Working in pairs, you will create storybooks with these five sections: Post-World War I Tensions, Good Times in the 1920s, Causes of the Depression, The Human Impact of the Great Depression, and The New Deal. After outlining your ideas, you will write a children’s storybook—complete with text, illustrations, and artistic adornments—that describes major events of the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression and the key lessons people can learn from them. Your storybook should be written in simple, clear language for an audience of 10-year-olds and should demonstrate a clear understanding of the unit’s major historical issues and legacies.

**Requirements**

1. Your illustrated storybook must answer this question: *What are the key lessons of* *the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression?* The storybook must contain information on each of these topics:

* Post-World War I Tensions
* Good Times of the 1920s
* Causes of the Great Depression
* The Human Impact of the Great Depression
* The New Deal

1. Your storybook should be written for 10-year-olds and must contain these elements:
2. A visually appealing cover with an appropriate title.
3. A separate section for each of the five topics. Each section should include a one-page summary describing the major events that relate to the topic. Choose from these events:

**Post-World War I Tensions** (include at least five of the following items): economic problems, labor unrest, the Red Scare, anti-immigration sentiment, political scandals, the Scopes trial, Sacco and Vanzetti, the Ku Klux Klan, Ida B. Wells, Marcus Garvey, Prohibition

**Good Times of the 1920s** (include at least five of the following items): economic boom, Harlem Renaissance, improved transportation, the advent of radio and movies, the changing role of women, sports mania

**Causes of the Great Depression** (include at least five of the following items): overproduction, underconsumption, speculation, the stock market crash, bank failures, farming industry troubles, business failures, Republican policies, unequal distribution of wealth

**The Human Impact of the Great Depression** (include at least five of the following items): unemployment, apple sellers, homelessness, Hoovervilles, starvation and illness, sharecroppers, Dust Bowl, bread lines, Okies, compassion and community support

**The New Deal** (include at least five of the following items): FDR, First Hundred Days, New Deal programs, results of the New Deal, Huey Long, American Liberty League

1. A visual or an illustration for each topic, possibly containing thought or voice bubbles coming from characters in the illustration.
2. A conclusion that explains five key lessons we can learn from the events of the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression and why they are important. For example, you might write, “A key lesson of the Great Depression is the need for government regulation in the banking and investment industries. This lesson is important because it protects against the widespread collapse of the nation’s banks and the stock market, both of which are key factors to the economic stability of the United States.”
3. Additional touches to make the storybook artistic and visually appealing, such as the use of color, page numbers, and additional graphical elements at the top and the bottom of pages.
4. Brainstorm ideas for your storybook by completing **CP Student Handout C**. Use your notes from the unit to describe the events of the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression, and select images or make sketches to represent these events. Then, brainstorm facts or evidence to explain the key lessons people can learn from the events. Review your ideas and visuals with your teacher before beginning the final draft of the storybook.
5. Complete the final draft of your storybook on stapled or bound paper or on a larger piece of tagboard or butcher paper. The text of your final draft should be written in ink or typed. Use your imagination to add touches to make the storybook artistic and visually appealing.

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| **CP Student Handout B** |

**Illustrated Storybook Project Evaluation**

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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|  |  | **Points**  **Possible** | **Student**  **Assessment** | **Teacher**  **Assessment** |
| 1. | **Quality of Storybook**   * Contains all required elements * Reflects creativity, imagination, and   effort | **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |
| 2. | **Quality of Historical Information**   * Each historical event is described accurately and thoroughly * The lessons of the historical events are accurate and clearly explained | **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |
| 3. | **Quality of Visuals**   * Visual elements illustrate key historical information * Visuals help make the book understandable to 10-year-olds * Color and creative touches make the book visually appealing | **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |
| 4. | **Writing Mechanics**   * Writing contains proper punctuation, spelling, and grammar * Writing is clear and understandable to   10-year-olds | **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |
| 5. | **Total Points** | **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |

Student Comments: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Teacher Comments: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
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| **CP Student Handout C** |

**Brainstorming Ideas for an Illustrated Storybook About the**

**Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression**

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| **Directions:** To brainstorm ideas for your illustrated storybook, complete the matrix below. Describe the events you learned about in the unit, and select images or make sketches to represent these events. Describe the key lessons people can learn from the events. Review your ideas with your teacher before writing and illustrating your book. |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Topic** | **Description of Events** | **Visuals to Represent**  **the Events** | **Key Lessons of the Events** |
| Post-World War I  Tensions |  |  |  |
| Good Times of  the 1920s |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Topic** | **Description of Events** | **Visuals to Represent**  **the Events** | **Key Lessons of the Events** |
| Causes of the  Great Depression |  |  |  |
| The Human Impact  of the  Great Depression |  |  |  |
| The New Deal |  |  |  |