

ELL US History Long Distance

lambc@luhsd.net

Week 4 April 27- May 1

Due: Tuesday, May 4

Instructions: If you haven't done so, obtain a laptop from the school. Follow instructions on my webpage to create an account. Answer the questions in complete sentences.

If you are having a really difficult time using turn-it-in, turn your work in using my email. JUST GET YOUR WORK IN TO ME! Don't get behind.

As always, email me if you have any questions OR text message me.

Reminder: We have our Zoom on Tuesdays each week at 5:30 p.m. 😊

America in the Fifties

Not all....but some.....

Welcome to THE MAKING OF A NATION – I'm your LD teacher, Ms. Lamb! This lesson we're going to learn and ponder and respond a bit to:

The Cold War at Home and how fear can lead to not so good things.....

Imagine a time machine. You've just climbed into it for the purpose of visiting the United States – in the 1950's. What would you expect to find? You are going to be SURPRISED!!! A whole lotta shaken going on....

1. List what you THINK the 1950's would be like: (what comes to your mind?) list at least two things!!! Think cars, music, clothes, teenagers....tv shows..... Communists taking over.....HUAC hearings, McCarthy "witch hunts," Hollywood Ten....what? didn't think of that!!!???

Fun stuff

Scary stuff

In the 1950's, America was a nation whose population was growing as never before. It was a nation where the popular culture of television was NEW and greatly influenced society. People watched a lot of TV!!! And, like today, what they saw wasn't always the truth.....but sometimes, the truth did come out....

America was also a nation that believed it was on the edge of nuclear war, fearful of the threat of Communist influence, a time of buy stuff, buy more stuff, (rise of consumer culture), conformity (must be like everyone else) and rebellion (no way). The 1950's had a lot of heavy stuff going on....all of which lead to the 1960's flat out, big time rebellion.....Hippies, Civil Rights, protest against warsohso much more. This is a bit of "cause and effect" in history speak

2. What are some more fun stuff and scary stuff in the 1950's? list 3 each

Americans were happy to put World War Two behind them. The war ended in 1945. People were hopeful. They thought the world would be peaceful for a while. By 1950, however, political tensions were high again. The U.S. and S.U. were now enemies in what came to be known as the Cold War. Communists took control of one eastern European nation after another. The Soviet Union led by Josef Stalin strengthened its armed forces. Some Americans felt that Communists could threaten the U.S. government. In the 1950's some Americans felt that President Truman was "soft on communism." In 1947, Congress set up the House Committee on Un-American Activities (**HUAC**).

AND, the United States thought America alone possessed the most powerful weapon of all - - the atomic bomb.

3. Oh my! Lots going on here!! First, where had the communists taken over? Second, what do you think "soft" on communism means? And, what did Pres. Truman feel he had to do? And, what did the Soviets get in 1949?

4. And to make things worse, in 1949 the Soviet Union had tested its own atomic bomb. The **nuclear race** was on. The two nations competed to build weapons of mass destruction. Also, that same year, China had become a communist country.

5. Why was 1949 a bad year for the U.S.? List two:

Don't forget that in 1950 North Korea invaded South Korea. This war made the U.S. want to make more deadlier bombs: the hydrogen bomb. The Soviets were also working to develop their own hydrogen bomb. Some Americans were so afraid that they built bomb shelters under their house. School children had to have "bomb" drills and duck under their desk at school.

6. What type of bomb is more powerful than an atomic bomb? What were some reactions to this new threat? List at least 3

7. So, Americans are glued to their TV. Congress begins to hold trials on the movie industry because of suspected Communist influence. Ten people refused to testify against other people. They said it was unconstitutional. The Hollywood Ten were sent to prison and lost their jobs. Many never worked in Hollywood again. Others were **blacklisted**—any person who at any time was a member of the Communist party or even belonged to a Labor Union.

8. Why was the TV so important at this time? List three things that the U.S. reacted to fear of communism at home?

Spy Cases.....

To add to the fear of communism, there were individuals who had been working for the Soviet Union...Alger Hisswas implicated, without proof...he was convicted of perjury for lying about documents and went to jail.

More spies....

In 1949, Remember when the Soviets got the bomb? Two Americans—Ethel and Julius Rosenberg were accused or implicated by a British scientist who admitted he had obtained the information on creating the bomb and gave it to the Rosenbergs.

9. So.....what two spy cases added to the fear of communism? What do you think could have helped add to the truth? Put something here...pretend you were put on trial. What would you want to come out? Wouldn't you want a really good lawyer????

There was another trial holding everyone's attention: The McCarthy "witch hunts." A Republican Senator, Joe McCarthy claimed that communists were taking over the government. He said that *Democrats* were guilty of *treason* for allowing Communists to *infiltrate* the government.

10. What is going on here? Does this remind you of anything at all? If it does, please go for it: write in your own words what Joe McCarthy was trying to do:

McCarthy brought a lot of people to trial to prove their loyalty to the state. He produced no evidence. People were bullied with no evidence to back up his claims. Many Republicans encouraged McCarthy because they thought he would help them win the 1952 election. Thousands of people lost their jobs and their careers were ruined if they refused to take a loyalty oath. In

1954 he made accusations against the U.S. Army. The American people watched these hearings and finally saw through his bullying.

11. How does what Senator McCarthy hurt our country?

As you can see, TV played a critical role in shaping American ideas and perceptions.

The years after the war also produced the **Baby Boom** generation. By 1960, there were 35 million. More families meant the need for more houses. And bigger families needed bigger houses. In 1950, almost one and a half million new homes were built in America. Most were located in **suburbs**, the areas outside cities.

12. What did the “babyboom” lead to? List two things:

People moved to the **suburbs** because they thought the schools there were better than city schools. They also liked having more space for their children to play in. More space meant children had room to lay out electric train sets. Kids also played with a big circular tube of colorful plastic called the **Hula Hoop**. People had to learn to move their hips in a circular motion, like a hula dancer in Hawaii, to spin it around their body. Also popular was the **poodle cut** -- not for dogs, but for women who wanted to look stylish. They fixed their hair into lots of small curls, like the hair on a poodle.

13. What kinds of things did these middle class, mostly white kids do in the 1950's?

More popular culture stuff:

In Hollywood, one of the biggest movie stars of the nineteen fifties was Marilyn Monroe. Another famous actor was James Dean, best known for the 1955 movie, "Rebel without a Cause" about teen agers against authority. In literature, there

were writers and poets who came to be known as the “**Beat Generation.**” To them, much of life in 1950 was empty and meaningless. The painter **Jackson Pollock** represented a spirit of rebellion in art. Pollock would drop paint onto a canvas. What did his works mean? People had to decide for themselves. In music, the rebel was **Elvis Presley** -- the king of rock and roll. Elvis was a twenty-one-year-old truck driver when he sang on television for the first time. Some parents and religious leaders thought he was a bad influence. They thought the way he moved his body to the music was too **suggestive**. But young people screamed for more. They listened to Elvis' music on records, on the radio and on the television program "American Bandstand"--the most popular dance party in America.

14. How were some people rebelling against society? Who were the leaders and what did they represent in their music, art, books and movies? You should write a lot here:

During the nineteen fifties, most of the people who appeared on television were white. If black actors appeared, they were usually in jobs working for white people. Louis Armstrong couldn't even stay in the hotels where he was a headliner. But in real life, a civil rights movement was beginning to gather strength. Legal battles were fought to end racial separation, especially in public schools. In 1954 the United States Supreme Court made a historic ruling. The case was known as Brown v. Board of Education. The court ruled that the requirement in some states for racially separate schools was unconstitutional. The court rejected the idea that schools for black students could be "separate but equal" to those attended by white students.

Directions: Two parts:

- 1) Answer the questions!
- 2) On another piece of paper, draw a line down the center of your paper:

1950's

Good/Fun

Bad/Scary

Write in as many examples of life in the 1950's as you can. You should have a minimum of 15 each. Extra credit for more

That's it for now. We'll finish 1950's and work on civil rights and the 1960's next week. See you on Zoom Tuesday at 5:30!!!