

2012-2013 Teaching American History

Extended Discussion/Writing Lesson Plan Template

Lesson Title: Individuals as instruments of change

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Appropriate for Grade Level(s): 8th – 12th

US History Standard(s):

H 3.12 Explain the major social, technological, and cultural developments of the 1920's

H 3.6 Examine social tensions in the post-World War I era

H 3.7 Describe the development of the women's **suffrage** movement and the subsequent passage of the 19th Amendment.

H 1.7 Evaluate how cultural developments in the arts, literature, architecture, education, media, and leisure activities have reflected and changed society.

CCSS(s): [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.9-10.1](#) Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, attending to such features as the date and origin of the information.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.9-10.2](#) Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of how key events or ideas develop over the course of the text.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.9-10.3](#) Analyze in detail a series of events described in a text; determine whether earlier events caused later ones or simply preceded them.

Discussion Question(s): What made it easy/hard to take a stand in the 1930s? In the 1930s, how did the arts impact public opinion? What triggered individuals to take a stand? How does one become a catalyst for change?

Discussion Engagement Strategy: Post the name "Abel Meeropol" and ask if anyone knows the name. Post "Billie Holliday" and the Rosebergs" – who knows them? Read "The story of the man behind Strange Fruit".
(ALTERNATE opening is the Who's Who activity)

Student Readings/sources (list):

1. _____ "The Strange Story of the Man behind Strange Fruit." *Npr*. N.p., n.d. Web.

<<http://www.npr/templates/transcript/transcript.php?storyId=158933012>>.

2. [Sports and Society \(abc-clip\)](#) <http://americanhistory.abc-clip.com/Search/Display/263272?terms=athletes+and+society>

3. [Billie Holiday \(abc-clip\)](#) "Billie Holiday." *American History*. ABC-CLIO, 2012. Web. 13 Nov. 2012.

4. American Art (abc-clip) "American art." *American History*. ABC-CLIO, 2012. Web. 13 Nov. 2012.

5. American music (abc-clip) "American music." *American History*. ABC-CLIO, 2012. Web. 13 Nov. 2012.

6. Jesse Owens (abc-clip) "Jesse Owens." *American History*. ABC-CLIO, 2012. Web. 13 Nov. 2012.

Description of student writing assignment and criteria/rubric used for assessment of student writing: The writing will be a reflective essay in response to their research and jigsaw seminar.

Total Time Needed: 2-3 days

The pages that follow the Lesson Plan Template include: student readings (sources) and questions, assignment sheet, model essay and rubric, self-assessment/reflection.

Lesson Outline:

Time Frame (e.g. 15 minutes)	What is the teacher doing?	What are students doing?
15 minutes (45 minutes)	Monitoring groups for interaction and individual participation; discussion of Billie Holliday, the Rosenbergs and Abel Meropol.	Reading “The Story of the man behind Strange Fruit” and discussion of Billie Holliday, the Rosenbergs and Abel Meropol.
45-60 minutes	Divide the students into 4 groups of equal size; have each group research artists (Group 1), musicians (Group 2), athletes (Group 3) and writers (group 4) from the 1930s	Research artists and a specific artist, research athletes and an athlete <u>OR</u> research musicians and a musician (Use <u>Artist Research Form</u>)
30 minutes	Arrange groups in which a member of group 1, one of group 2, one of group 3 and one of group 4 are represented in each group. Remind the students that as a speaker, they share responses from their category and as a listener, they take notes so that have more data when writing their final piece.	Jigsaw seminar – students are in groups of 4 in which a student who research an artist, a musician and an athlete are grouped. They discuss the questions that are in the <u>Jigsaw Seminar Question List</u> .
30-60 minutes (Homework assignment)		Students are creating a five paragraph essay on the following topic: <u>How does one become a catalyst for change? Use examples of how it was accomplished historically and include how you could also be a catalyst for change.</u>

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Who's Who?

Make a list of famous athletes, musicians and artists who have made an impact on our world (historical or contemporary). After each listing, write what impact they have made.

Individual	Unique contribution (i.e. style of art, sport or instrument)	How they impacted our world
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Artist Research Form

Name of artist/musician/athlete/writer:

Area of expertise:

List 10 key elements of this individual's life that contributed to his/her expertise:

Write a paragraph, detailing their contributions to America in the 1920s.

Write 2-3 sentences about what impressed you the most about this person.

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JIGSAW SEMINAR QUESTIONS

1. WHAT MADE IS EASY/HARD TO TAKE A STAND IN THE 1930S?

2. IN THE 1930S, HOW DID THE ARTS IMPACT PUBLIC OPINION?

3. WHAT TRIGGERED INDIVIDUALS TO TAKE A STAND?

Writing assignment and rubric

Create a five paragraph essay on the following topic:

How does one become a catalyst for change? Use examples of how it was accomplished historically and include how you could also be a catalyst for change. Feel free to use an example or two from the quote list (document by listing the person's name in parentheses after it) if you feel their statement underscores your position.

Use the rubric below to guide you in your responses.

	<u>Missing</u>	<u>Emerging</u>	<u>Proficient</u>	<u>Exemplar</u>
Introduction	Question is not addressed or identified. Lacking a clear thesis. Unorganized roadmap provided.	Question is addressed, but lacks a clear focus. Thesis is stated with a clear roadmap.	Introductory paragraph includes a creative hook, restatement of the question, definition of terms (where appropriate), a thesis, and a roadmap the categories that will be developed	Introductory paragraph includes a creative hook, restatement of the question, definition of terms (where appropriate), a thesis, and a roadmap the categories that will be developed
First Body Paragraph	Paragraph does not follow roadmap.	Paragraph is organized with main ideas divided into paragraphs, but paragraphs do not follow roadmap stated in introduction. Evidence does not clearly answer the question.	Body paragraph are arranged according to roadmap. Contains clear sentences for each body paragraph. Provides an argument using evidence to support sub thesis.	Body paragraph is clearly arranged that follows the roadmap presented in the introduction. A sub thesis is clearly stated. . Demonstrates critical analysis of author bias, inconsistencies and making judgments. Provides an argument using evidence to support sub thesis.
Second Body Paragraph	Paragraph does not follow roadmap.	Paragraph is organized with main ideas divided into paragraphs, but paragraphs do not follow roadmap stated in introduction. Evidence does not clearly answer the question.	Body paragraph are arranged according to roadmap. Contains clear sentences for each body paragraph. Provides an argument using evidence to support sub thesis.	Body paragraph is clearly arranged that follows the roadmap presented in the introduction. A sub thesis is clearly stated. . Demonstrates critical analysis of author bias, inconsistencies and making judgments. Provides an argument using evidence to support sub thesis.
Third Body Paragraph	Paragraph does not follow roadmap.	Paragraph is organized with main ideas divided into paragraphs, but paragraphs do not follow roadmap stated in introduction. Evidence does not clearly answer the question.	Body paragraph are arranged according to roadmap. Contains clear sentences for each body paragraph. Provides an argument using evidence to support sub thesis.	Body paragraph is clearly arranged that follows the roadmap presented in the introduction. A sub thesis is clearly stated. . Demonstrates critical analysis of author bias, inconsistencies and making judgments. Provides an argument using evidence to support sub thesis.
Conclusion	Closing paragraph does not restate thesis. "Although" statement is not included. Main argument does not support "although" statement. Significant to today is not included.	Closing paragraph does not clearly restate thesis. Includes "Although" statement. Main argument does not trump "although" statement. Explanation of significance to today is not clear.	Closing paragraph restates thesis. "Although" statement is stated (if applicable). Main argument somewhat trumps "although" statement. Includes explanation of why the question is significant today.	Closing paragraph restates thesis. "Although" statement is stated (if applicable). Main argument trumps "although" statement. Explanation of why the question is significant today is clearly stated.

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Exemplar writing sample

The Power of YOU!

The excitement of winning the Olympics must have been incredible but what if the welcome was different. Imagine accomplishing such an extraordinary feat and to be facing the following: "After I came home from the 1936 Olympics with my four medals, it became increasingly apparent that everyone was going to slap me on the back, want to shake my hand, or have me up to their suite. But no one was going to offer me a job." (Jessie Owens) Jesse Owens was an African American who accomplished what few athletes have achieved but unfortunately, his ethnicity meant that the value of his performance was not publically recognized. Despite public indifference, Jesse became a catalyst for change due to his talent, passionate determination and guidance.

Jesse Owens was blessed with talent. His natural propensity for running was recognized early and developed rapidly. He ran successfully in middle school and tied the world record for the 100, 200 and long jump during high school. He went on to attend Ohio State University and was quite successful but his true talent displayed itself at the 1936 Olympic Games in which he won 4 gold medals and set new world records in all four events (200 meters, long jump, 400 meter relay and 100 meter dash). This record was unprecedented by any athlete in the history of the games.

Jesse Owens was self-motivated by his passion. He was rarely recognized throughout his career, outside of occasional coaches who supported him. He did not receive minimal support compared his fellow white athletes and many times, added a work load to generate income to his independent training. He received no scholarships and was not allowed to stay with the team whenever they traveled out of town. He was shunned by Hitler himself, he went unrecognized by the president of the United States and came home to unemployment and poverty. Despite this adversity, he was a superstar in the world of athletics and his legacy will stand the test of time.

Jesse Owens received support to reach his goals. Financially, very little benefit came his way but in junior high, his coach perceived his extraordinary abilities and smoothed his passage on into high school and subsequently college. He was accepted to Ohio State University and although was not provided with a scholarship, he received excellent coaching and the backing of the university.

Jesse Owens was one of a kind and his abilities, drive and support created a legacy of unparalleled achievement. Despite prejudice, financial adversity and insurmountable obstacles, Jesse Owens was truly a catalyst of change for his sport and for African Americans.

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Power Quotes

Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power.

Abraham Lincoln

Men, Character, Him



Character is power.

Booker T. Washington

Character

Knowledge will give you power, but character respect.

Bruce Lee

Respect, Knowledge, Character

Being powerful is like being a lady. If you have to tell people you are, you aren't.

Margaret Thatcher

Powerful, Tell, Lady

All things are subject to interpretation whichever interpretation prevails at a given time is a function of power and not truth.

Friedrich Nietzsche

Time, Truth, Subject

Never underestimate the power of human stupidity.

Robert A. Heinlein

Stupidity, Human

You only have power over people so long as you don't take everything away from them. But when you've robbed a man of everything, he's no longer in your power - he's free again.

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

Everything, Long, Free

Knowledge is power.

Francis Bacon

Knowledge

All the forces in the world are not so powerful as an idea whose time has come.

Victor Hugo

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Time, Powerful, Idea

Every man builds his world in his own image. He has the power to choose, but no power to escape the necessity of choice.

Ayn Rand

Choice, Choose, Escape

Never allow a person to tell you no who doesn't have the power to say yes.

Eleanor Roosevelt

Person, Tell, Yes

What it lies in our power to do, it lies in our power not to do.

Aristotle

Lies

I hope our wisdom will grow with our power, and teach us, that the less we use our power the greater it will be.

Thomas Jefferson

Hope, Wisdom, Less

The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any.

Alice Walker

Thinking, Give, Common

No one is in control of your happiness but you; therefore, you have the power to change anything about yourself or your life that you want to change.

Barbara de Angelis

Life, Change, Happiness

The less effort, the faster and more powerful you will be.

Bruce Lee

Powerful, Effort, Less

If you realized how powerful your thoughts are, you would never think a negative thought.

Peace Pilgrim

Powerful, Thought, Thoughts

Power is the great aphrodisiac.

Henry A. Kissinger

Great

Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.

Frederick Douglass

Nothing, Without, Did

Circumstances are beyond human control, but our conduct is in our own power.

Benjamin Disraeli

Human, Control, Beyond

Man's greatness lies in his power of thought.

Blaise Pascal

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Thought, Greatness, Lies

Power is given only to those who dare to lower themselves and pick it up. Only one thing matters, one thing; to be able to dare!

Fyodor Dostoevsky

Able, Themselves, Matters

Will power is to the mind like a strong blind man who carries on his shoulders a lame man who can see.

Arthur Schopenhauer

Strong, Mind, Blind

Power is always dangerous. Power attracts the worst and corrupts the best.

Edward Abbey

Best, Dangerous, Worst

Make the best use of what is in your power, and take the rest as it happens.

Epictetus

Best, Rest, Happens

, Powerful, Prevails

Question: Why are we Masters of our Fate, the captains of our souls? Because we have the power to control our thoughts, our attitudes. That is why many people live in the withering negative world. That is why many people live in the Positive Faith world.

Alfred A. Montapert

Faith, Positive, Live

But to me nothing - the negative, the empty - is exceedingly powerful.

Alan Watts

Powerful, Nothing, Negative

The value systems of those with access to power and of those far removed from such access cannot be the same. The viewpoint of the privileged is unlike that of the underprivileged.

Aung San Suu Kyi

Same, Cannot, Far

It is folly for a man to pray to the gods for that which he has the power to obtain by himself.

Epicurus

Himself, Gods, Pray

Justice and power must be brought together, so that whatever is just may be powerful, and whatever is powerful may be just.

Blaise Pascal

Powerful, Justice, Must

Money is power, and in that government which pays all the public officers of the states will all political power be substantially concentrated.

Andrew Jackson

Money, Government, Political

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Silence is the ultimate weapon of power.

Charles de Gaulle

Silence, Ultimate, Weapon

Vote: the instrument and symbol of a freeman's power to make a fool of himself and a wreck of his country.

Ambrose Bierce

Fool, Country, Vote

A man's true state of power and riches is to be in himself.

Henry Ward Beecher

True, State, Himself

Love him or hate him, Trump is a man who is certain about what he wants and sets out to get it, no holds barred. Women find his power almost as much of a turn-on as his money.

Donald Trump

Love, Money, Women

Capitalism works better from every perspective when the economic decision makers are forced to share power with those who will be affected by those decisions.

Barney Frank

Better, Decision, Decisions

The greater the power, the more dangerous the abuse.

Edmund Burke

Dangerous, Greater, Abuse

Self-reverence, self-knowledge, self-control; these three alone lead one to sovereign power.

Alfred Lord Tennyson

Alone, Three, Lead

Power has only one duty - to secure the social welfare of the People.

Benjamin Disraeli

Social, Duty, Welfare

Knowledge is the most democratic source of power.

Alvin Toffler

Knowledge, Democratic, Source

Power is dangerous unless you have humility.

Richard J. Daley

Humility, Dangerous, Unless

The world itself is the will to power - and nothing else! And you yourself are the will to power - and nothing else!

Friedrich Nietzsche

Yourself, Nothing, Else

The purpose of getting power is to be able to give it away.

Aneurin Bevan

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Give, Away, Able

Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for powers equal to your tasks.

Phillips Brooks

Equal, Pray, Tasks

Sooner or later, man has always had to decide whether he worships his own power or the power of God.

Arnold J. Toynbee

God, Whether, Decide

When you start to develop your powers of empathy and imagination, the whole world opens up to you.

Susan Sarandon

Start, Whole, Empathy

Immense power is acquired by assuring yourself in your secret reveries that you were born to control affairs.

Andrew Carnegie

Yourself, Control, Secret

My relationship to power and authority is that I'm all for it. People need somebody to watch over them. Ninety-five percent of the people in the world need to be told what to do and how to behave.

Arnold Schwarzenegger

Need, Somebody, Watch

Historic Events For The Decade

- During this decade of the Great Depression the American dream had become a nightmare. Where America was once the land of opportunity it was now the land of desperation. The America of hope and optimism had become the land of despair. The American people were questioning everything in their lives - democracy, capitalism, individualism. For many the best hope for a better life was out west in California. Many farmers packed their families into cars, along with their few possessions they could tie to the back, and looked for work in the agricultural fields or cities of the West. The independent land owners were gone forever.
- During 1929 and 1932 the income of the average American family was reduced by 40%, from \$2,300 to \$1,500. Survival became the keyword. While institutions, attitudes, and lifestyles changed in this decade, democracy prevailed.
- The democracies of Germany and Italy fell to dictatorships, but the United States and its constitution survived.
- Economics dominated politics in the 1930's. The 1930s began with shanty towns called Hoovervilles, named after a president who felt that relief should be left to the private sector. It ended with federal programs funded by the national government and commissions set up to regulate Wall Street, the banking industry, and other business enterprises.
- The Social Security Act of 1935 set up a program to ensure an income for the elderly.
- The Wagner Act of 1935 gave workers the legal right to unionize.
- John L. Lewis founded the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) and conditions for blue-collar workers improved.
- Joseph P. Kennedy, was appointed Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commissions.
- The beginning of the next decade saw the United States move from a laissez-faire economy that oversaw its own conduct, to an economy that was regulated by the federal government. This debate over which course of action is best is still going on today.
- The Presidents of the 1930s were Herbert Hoover and Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

People and Personalities Of The Decade

- Mary McLeod Bethune, a very influential African American woman educator and friend of Eleanor Roosevelt who, as a board member of the National Youth Administration, was able to extend benefits to African Americans.
- Richard E. Byrd was a famous explorer of the Antarctic and Arctic . During his 1933-35 expedition to Antarctica he conducted many scientific search projects.
- Mildred Babe Didrikson was considered by many to be the finest woman athlete of all time. She also won medals or distinction in baseball, basketball, track and field, and golf.
- Amelia Earhart was an aviation pioneer and the first woman and second person to fly solo across

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the Atlantic Ocean.

- The American psychiatrist, Karl Menninger's book *The Human Mind* had a great effect on public attitudes toward mental illness.
- Jesse Owens an African American athlete who won four gold medals in track-and-field at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin.
- Frances Perkins the first woman cabinet member who advocated the 8 hour day, stricter factory safety laws, and laws for the protection of women and children in the labor force.
- Will Rogers was not only a homespun philosopher, who began his career as an Oklahoma cowboy, but also was well loved as a radio commentator, film actor, and author.
- Walter Winchell was a gossip columnist and radio commentator. His controversial stands and scoops on celebrities made him one of the most famous twentieth-century American journalists.

The Art and Architecture Of The Decade

- Like everything else in the 30's, art was also dominated by the Great Depression. It was supported by government programs such as the Public Works of Art Project and later the Federal Art Project. The artists employed by these projects, which numbered over 5,000 at one period of time, used themes based on American culture and history. Gutzon Borglum, who was a sculptor, was able to complete his Mount Rushmore Memorial with funds supplied by the WPA.
- Many other of the "starving artists" were able to survive the hard times by painting murals on the lobby walls of government buildings. Some of which, became artists of note, such as Jackson Pollock and Willem de Kooning.
- The 30s saw the beginning of the American regionalist style with Grant Wood's famous work, "American Gothic". Other artists who adopted this style include John Steuart Curry, Thomas Hart Benton, Georgia O'Keeffe with her southwestern themes, and Edward Hopper with his realistic scenes from city life.
- The Empire State Building, the Chrysler Building, and Rockefeller Center were completed in the early 30's. In 1937 the Frank Lloyd Wright masterpiece of home design, "Falling Water", was built.
- In 1932, the word "mobile" was coined to describe the kinetic sculpture created by Alexander Calder.
- In 1935, Andrew Mellon gave his \$25 million dollar art collection to the American people and contributed \$10 million to the construction of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

Education Issues For The Decade

- The 1930's weren't the best of times for public education. Since money was in short supply, parents were unable to provide their children with the necessary clothes, supplies, and textbooks (which were not furnished in some states) to attend school.
- Taxes, especially in rural areas, went unpaid. With this loss of revenue, school boards were forced to try other strategies to keep their districts operating. There were shortened school terms, teachers' salaries were cut. When one new teacher was paid \$40 a month for a five month school year she was very glad for the job. A rural county in Arkansas was forced to charge tuition one year so they could keep schools open, and some children were forced to drop out for

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that year. Bartering was also done, one farmer bartered wood to fuel the classrooms' potbellied stoves for his four children's tuition.

- The famous Dick and Jane books that taught millions of children to read were first published in 1931. These primers introduced the students to reading with only one new word per page and a limited vocabulary per book. All who learned to read with these books still recall the "Look. See Dick. See Dick run."

The Fads and Fashions Of The Decade

- Since spendable income was limited, people had to look to inexpensive hobbies and things to do. President Roosevelt helped make stamp collecting a popular hobby.
- Also very popular were parlor games and board games became the rage.
- Gambling also increased as people sought any means to add to their income. Between 1930 and 1939 horse racing became legal in 15 more states bringing the total to 21.
- Spectator sports interest also grew. In baseball, stars like Lou Gehrig and Joe DiMaggio drew fans into the stadium. Those who couldn't attend the games listened to the play-by-play on their radios.
- The 1932 Winter Olympics, held at Lake Placid, New York, renewed interest in winter sports. The Civilian Conservation Corps, a New Deal work project for youths, built ski runs and jumps on public land as well as recreational facilities in the national parks.
- Since Paris fashions became too expensive for all but the very rich, American designers came into their own.
- Hollywood movie stars such as Bette Davis and Greta Garbo set fashion trends in dresses designed by Adrian and Muriel King and hats designed by Lily Dache.
- Since clothes had to last a long time styles did not change every season. The flapper attire of the 1920's was replaced by the simple print dress with a waist line and longer hem length.
- The use of the zipper became prevalent for the first time because it was less costly than the buttons and closures previously used.
- Another innovation of the 30's was different hem lengths for different times of the day. The mid calf length was for day wear and the longer length for evening clothes. Men's pants were wide and high waisted. Vest sweaters became an alternative to the traditional matching vest of the three piece suit, and hats were mandatory for the well dressed male.

Literature For The Decade

- Several of America's most distinguished writers produced works of fiction during the thirties. Among them are: F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, John Dos Passos, and Thornton Wilder.
- Many of the novels of this period explored what was happening in the country during the Great Depression. John Steinbeck's, *The Grapes of Wrath*; James T. Farrell wrote a trilogy of novels about an Irish-American named Studs Lonigan; Richard Wright's, *Native Son*; and Erskine Caldwell's, *Tobacco Road*. The recent Modern Library list of the top 100 novels, in English, of

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the 20th century cited all of these works.

- Other notable works in other forms of literature include: the poet Carl Sandburg's poem "The People, Yes" in 1936. Ogden Nash wrote light verse for the New Yorker magazine. Dr. Seuss published his rhyming books for youngsters learning to read. In 1937 Wallace Stevens' collection of poetry, *The Man With the Blue Guitar* was published. In 1930, Dale Carnegie, penned the book whose title *How to Win Friends and Influence People* was to become a part of the language.

The Music Of The Decade

- Duke Ellington song, "It Don't Mean a Thing (if it Ain't Got That Swing)". sums up the "in" music of the thirties. Some popular songs, such as "Brother, Can You Spare a Dime" spoke to the hardships of the time. However, most young people flocked to hear and dance to the big bands of Benny Goodman, Duke Ellington, Glenn Miller, and Tommy Dorsey.
- Also during this time Broadway produced some of the most famous and lasting American musicals. Such as: George and Ira Gershwin's, *Strike Up the Band*, *Girl Crazy*, and *Of Thee I Sing*. Cole Porter's *Anything Goes*, *Jubilee*, and *Red Hot and Blue*. Irving Berlin, Johnny Mercer, and Richard Rodgers composed melodies still being played and sung today.
- The Federal Music Project (FMP) supported the musical arts and sponsored performances of both classical and popular compositions. It did, however, emphasize American music and promoted the works of Aaron Copland, Roy Harris and Virgil Thomson.
- In 1936, the Department of the Interior hired Woody Guthrie and he travelled throughout the Northwest to perform his folk songs. It was during this tour he wrote twenty-six songs in twenty-six days. By 1938, he was making appearances in support of labor unions. He wrote "I Ain't Got No Home", which was inspired by visits to migrant labor camps.
- In 1935, George Gershwin's American folk opera *Porgy and Bess* was first performed.
- In 1931 "The Star Spangled Banner" was designated as the national anthem by Congress.
- Kate Smith sang Irving Berlin's "God Bless America" in 1938, and made the song her own. Also in 1938, a young Mary Martin mesmerized theatergoers with her rendition of "My Heart Belongs to Daddy" in Cole Porter's *Leave It to Me*.

The Decade In Radio

Radio reached its peak of popularity during this time. By 1939, 80% of the population owned radio sets. Americans just loved to laugh at the antics of such comedians as: Jack Benny, Fred Allen, George Burns and Gracie Allen, Amos and Andy, and Fibber McGee and Molly. The daytime airwaves were dominated by the soap opera.

Our Gal Sunday began each episode with the question, "Can a girl from a little mining town in the west find happiness as the wife of a wealthy and titled Englishman?" And woman had their ears glued to the radio every day in hopes of learning the answer. In addition, the heroics of the Lone Ranger, the Green Hornet, the Shadow, and Jack Armstrong, all-American boy, not only thrilled listeners both young and old but sold countless boxes of cereal.

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