**1920’s Essential Knowledge Study Guide**

***Results of Improved Transportation***

***Brought about by Affordable Automobiles***

• Greater mobility

• Creation of jobs (car making)

• Growth of transportation-related industries (road

construction, oil, steel, automobile)

• Movement to suburban areas

***Use of the Assembly Line***

• Henry Ford, automobile

• Rise of mechanization (replace human and animal

labor with machines)

***Communication Changes***

• Increased availability of telephones

• Development of the radio and broadcast industry

• Development of the movies

***Ways Electrification Changed American life***

• labor-saving products (e.g., washing machines, electric

stoves, water pumps)

• Electric lighting

• Entertainment (e.g., radio, movies)

• Improved communications (telephone, radio)

***Prohibition***

• Prohibition was imposed by a constitutional Amendment

(18th) that made it illegal to manufacture,

transport, and sell alcoholic beverages.

• Speakeasies were created as places for people to drink

alcoholic beverages.

• Bootleggers made and smuggled alcohol illegally and

promoted organized crime.

• Repealed by the 21st Amendment.

***Great Migration North and West***

• Jobs for African Americans in the South were scarce and

low paying.

• African Americans faced discrimination and violence in

the South.

• African Americans moved to cities in the North and

Midwest in search of better employment opportunities.

• African Americans also faced discrimination and

violence in the North and Midwest.

***Social Changes***

***Cultural Climate of the 1920s and 1930s***

• Art: Georgia O’Keeffe, an artist known for urban scenes

and, later, paintings of the Southwest

• Literature: F. Scott Fitzgerald, a novelist who wrote about

the Jazz Age of the 1920s; John Steinbeck, a novelist who

portrayed the strength of poor migrant workers during the

1920s – 1930s

• Music: Aaron Copland and George Gershwin, composers

who wrote uniquely American music

***Harlem Renaissance***

• African American artists, writers, and musicians based in

Harlem revealed the freshness and variety of African

American culture.

• Art: Jacob Lawrence, a painter who chronicled the

experiences of the Great Migration through art

• Literature: Langston Hughes, a poet who combined the

experiences of African and American cultural roots

• Music: Duke Ellington (piano) and Louis Armstrong

(horn), jazz musicians; Bessie Smith, a blues singer

• The popularity of these artists spread beyond

Harlem to the rest of society.



