The 1920s

Objective:
1. To discover and explore the history of California in the 1920s

Time: 30-45 minutes

Materials:
1. “The 1920s”

Directions:
1. Review the definition of “decade” with your students.
2. Distribute “The 1920s.”
3. Have students read “The 1920s” individually, in pairs, groups, or as a class. You may want to review the vocabulary words in bold.
4. When finished point out the highlights of the 1920s—the population of Los Angeles, what kind of work people did, what kind of houses people lived in, and how people traveled to and from places. Each of the highlights will be discussed with students when they visit the Homestead Museum.
5. Compare the highlights of the 1920s with the 1840s and 1870s. What changes occurred from the 1840s? The 1870s?

Additional activities:
1. Writing exercise: Ask students to imagine they are a movie star or tourist. Have them write a letter to a friend on the East Coast of the United States describing California in the 1920s.
2. Research: Have students compare and contrast what is happening in California to what is happening in another state in the 1920s.

Links to standards

History/Social Studies: 4.1.3, 4.1.4, 4.1.5, 4.4.2, 4.4.3, 4.4.6

Los Angeles Booms
Los Angeles now leads the nation in population growth. How strange it seems when only 50 years ago Los Angeles was a frontier town with a population of 16,000 people. Today, the city boasts of a population of over 1,000,000 people. Sources tell us that about 350 people settle here each day. Why are people attracted to Los Angeles? It is our nearly perfect climate and jobs. Most people can find a job in the real estate, oil, or movie industry. What other city can offer sunshine and wealth?

City Traveling
Most people ask for suggestions when traveling in downtown Los Angeles. If you do not want to get stuck in a traffic jam or search endlessly for a parking space, we suggest you take the streetcar. The streetcar, which is also called the Red Car, goes just about everywhere. Try it. It beats waiting in traffic!

Walter Temple Builds New House in Puente
Walter Temple, the grandson of pioneer William Workman, has constructed a beautiful new home on the Workman Homestead. Called La Casa Nueva or “the new house,” it is built in the Spanish Colonial Revival style and took five years to finish. It is already being compared to the homes of famous movie stars in Hollywood. No other mansion we have seen compares to its beauty. If you go to Puente you must stop by and take a look.

See the Stars
See where your favorite film star lives. Don Belding of Lord and Thomas Advertising Agency has published a booklet containing the addresses of 65 of the most popular movie stars living in Hollywood. This booklet will go on sale today on downtown newsstands.

Armstrong at the Biltmore
Jazz musician Louis Armstrong will play Friday night at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles. This is one show you do not want to miss—especially if you like to dance the Charleston.

Clara Bow Startles Fans
Clara Bow was seen last night in Hollywood with a “bobbed” haircut. In addition to her new hairstyle she wore one of the shortest dresses we have ever seen in women’s fashions. It is quite shocking to see women with “bobbed” hair, but now short skirts and dresses?

Pop-Up Toaster Invented
The McGraw Electric Company has invented a marvelous new toaster that pops your bread up when it is toasted. The company also manufactures other labor-saving electrical appliances like waffle molds and coffee pots.