Cultural Innovations

Objective: To learn about art and culture from the early 1900s.
During the 1920s, American artists and writers challenged traditional ideas and began to explore what it meant to be “modern”.

Many artists, writers, and intellectuals moved to Manhattan’s Greenwich Village and Chicago’s south Side.

The artistic and Bohemian (unconventional) lifestyle of these neighborhoods offered young artists and writers new lifestyles.
Modern American Art

- European art movements greatly influenced the modernists of American art.
- John Marin drew on nature as well as the urban dynamics of New York for inspiration.
- Charles Scheeler applied photography and Cubism to urban and rural American landscapes.
- Edward Hopper revived the visual accuracy of Realism in his haunting scenes.
Artists
Poets and Writers

- Poet **Carl Sandburg** used common speech to glorify the Midwest and the expansive nature of American life.
- **Ernest Hemingway** wrote about war’s meaningless violence in *A Farewell to Arms*.
- **F. Scott Fitzgerald** wrote *The Great Gatsby*, a novel that exposed the emptiness and superficiality of much of modern society.
The economic prosperity of the 1920s provided many Americans with more leisure time and more spending money.

Because of radio and motion pictures, sports such as baseball and boxing reached new heights of popularity.

Baseball star Babe Ruth became a national hero.
Rise of Hollywood, radio shows, and music

• Motion pictures became extremely popular with stars such as Mary Pickford, Charlie Chaplin, and Douglas Fairbanks.

• Radio enjoyed a large following during the Jazz Age.

• The mass media (radio, movies, newspapers, and magazines aimed at a broad audience) helped break down patterns of provincialism, or narrow focus on local interests.

• They helped unify the nation and spread the new ideas and attitudes of the time.