

TRADITIONALISTS VS. MODERNISTS

Unit II – the 1920s

Essential Question: How did social, economic and religious tensions divide Americans during the 1920s?

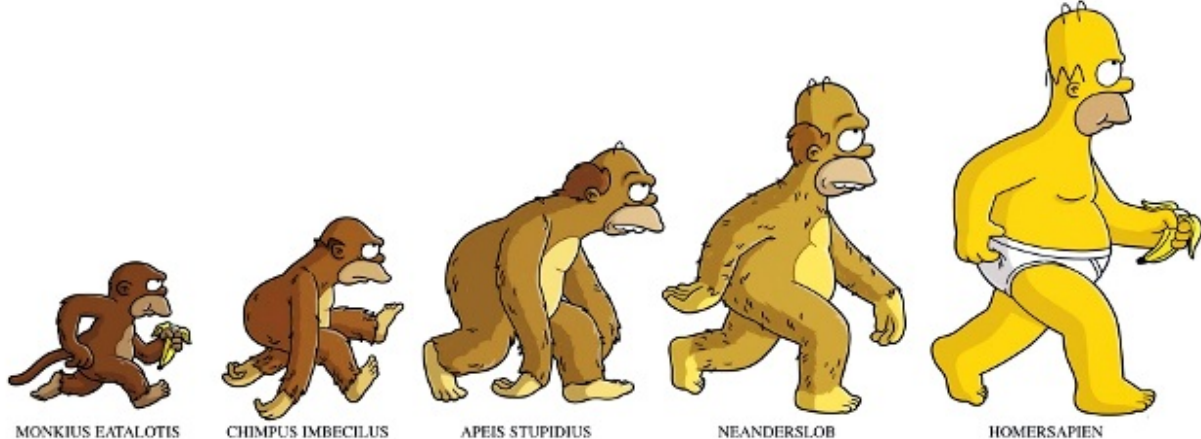
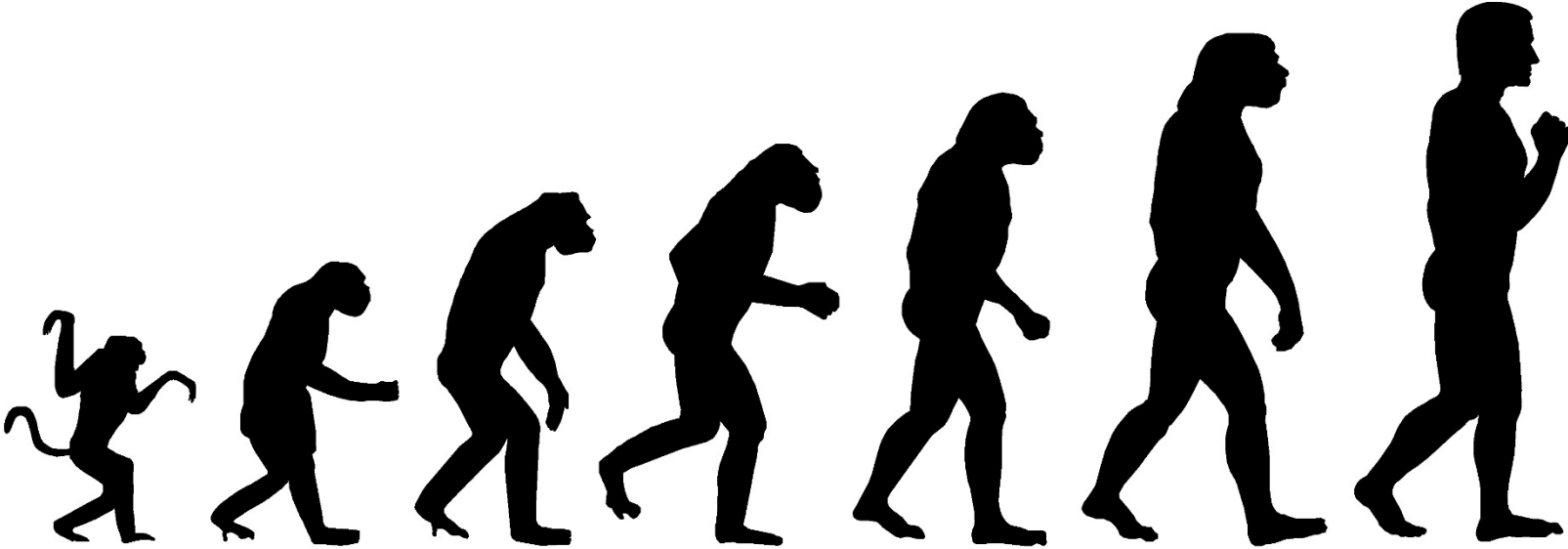
Essential Question

- **How did social, economic and religious tensions divide Americans during the 1920s?**

DO-NOW QUESTIONS 12/01

- What is social Darwinism?
- What is evolution?
- What is creationism?

Evolution



MONKIUS EATALOTIS

CHIMPUS IMBECILUS

APEIS STUPIDIUS

NEANDERSLOB

HOMERSAPIEN

HOMERSAPIEN

To Know:

• What is Social Darwinism?

- Social progress results from conflicts in which the fittest or best adapted individuals, or entire societies, would prevail. (Gilded Age)

• What is Evolution?

- Process by which organisms change over time as a result of changes in heritable physical or behavioral traits

• What is creationism?

- Religious belief that the universe and life originated "from specific acts of divine creation," as opposed to the scientific conclusion that they came about through natural processes

Who are the traditionalists and modernists?

- Traditionalist = a person who has deep respect for long-held cultural and religious values
 - They believe these values are the “anchor” that provides order and stability in society
- Modernist = a person who embraces new ideas, styles and social trends.
 - They believe traditional values restrict individual freedom and happiness
- **MAIN IDEA:** In the 1920’s there was a “culture war” between those who believe in traditional values vs. modern beliefs.

The traditionalist thinks...

- new ideas and behavior should be viewed with suspicion.
- they are defending all that is good in America.
- City culture is “money-grubbing,” “materialistic,” and “immoral.”

TITLE:

Urban & Rural America

Points of Contention

- Many people started to move from small towns to cities
- By 1920, more than 50% of the public lived in urban areas
- Cities became the center of economic growth

The Modernist thinks...

- cities provide the most economic opportunity.
- cities provide more freedom to think and live.
- rural America is behind the times.



The traditionalist thinks...

- laws should be passed to limit what women could wear.
- the purpose of courtship is to lead to marriage.
- that young people are reckless and immoral.
- the censorship of ideas is okay

TITLE:

The Youth & Adult Perspective

Points of Contention

- Courtship (dating) changed dramatically
- Increase in public education & college enrollment
- Emergence of the flapper

The Modernist thinks...

- flapper culture should be embraced.
- the new fads were the “cats pajamas.”
- the purpose of dating was to just have fun. their parents are just nagging them and behind the times.



The traditionalist thinks...

- alcohol causes crime, violence and the breakup of families.
- No alcohol will lead to a healthier, happier America.
- stopping alcohol will lead to less influence from foreigners (Germans and Italians)

[Ken Burns – “Two Americas”](#)

TITLE:

Debate over Wet & Dry

Points of Contention

- Enforcing prohibition (the 18th Amendment) was very difficult
- Support for prohibition was mainly rural areas
- At first, prohibition seemed to be a success, but opposition grew
- Repealed by the 21st Amendment

The Modernist thinks...

- prohibition violates individual liberty.
- Gov't is trying to overly regulate people.
- traditionalists are ignorant.
the religious argument made by traditionalists is flawed.



The traditionalist thinks...

- creationism should be taught in schools, not evolution.
- evolution will lead to the acceptance of social Darwinism.
- laws, like the Butler Law in Tennessee, should be supported.

TITLE:

Creationism & Evolution

[Scopes - PBS](#)

Points of Contention

- By the 1920s, evolution was regularly taught in many schools.
- Evolution vs. Creationism
- The debate was highlighted during the Scopes Monkey Trial.

The Modernist thinks...

- evolution and natural selection should be embraced.
- religion and science can co-exist.
- people should look at science – instead of religion – to explain the modern world.



The Scopes “Monkey” Trial

Tennessee Butler Act:

1) Banned...

Teaching of evolution or anything against
divine creation



John T. Scopes...

Taught evolution in class

William Jennings Bryan

- Prosecuting lawyer
- Former Pres. Candidate
- Christian & Pacifist
- Emotions

Supporters

- Anti-evolution
- Rural America
- Bible is literal
- “Sins” of modern life (cities lacked morals





THOU SHALT NOT

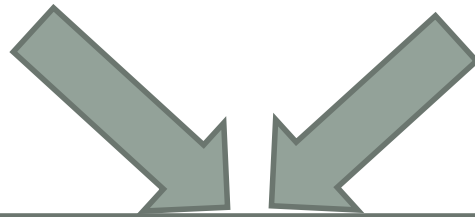
Clarence Darrow

- Defense lawyer
- Agnostic
- Not religious
- Logic

Supporters

- Law is unjust
- Freedom of speech
- Science
- New ideas

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Scopes was found... GUILTY
and... FINED \$100

Evolution pushed out of schools for years

Discussion Question:

How does the trial represent the cultural divide of the 1920s?