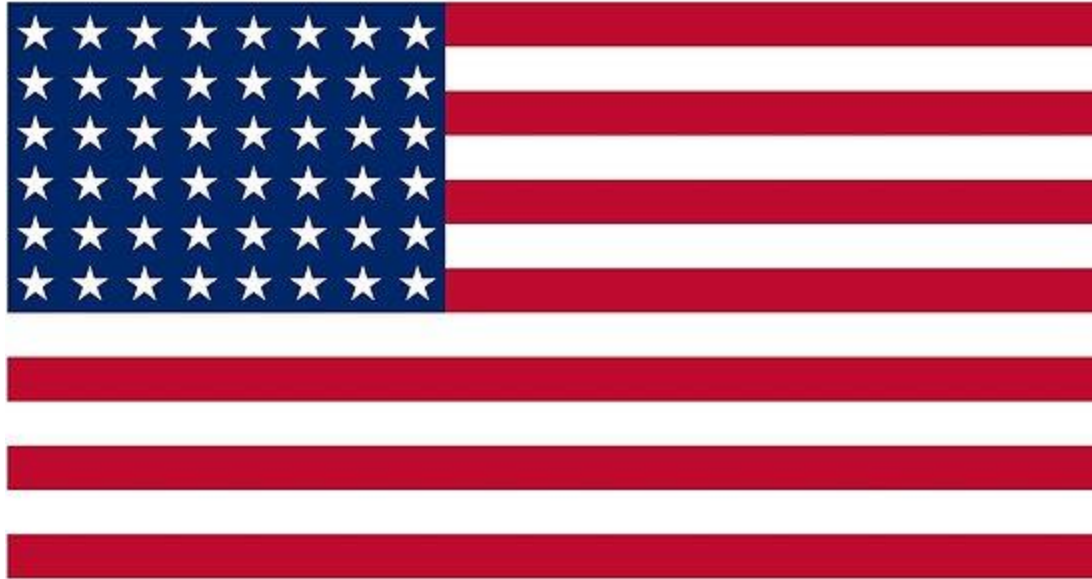


# America, 1920-1973



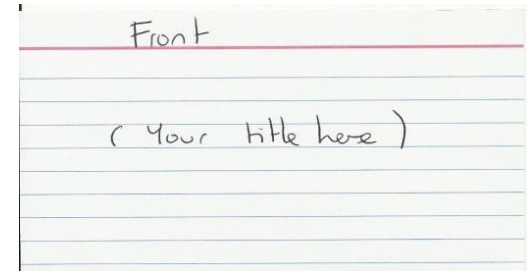
Exam Paper 1 - Revision Cards

# Topic: 1920s Boom - Revision Focus Areas

1. Key Features of the Boom
2. Reasons for the Boom
3. People who didn't benefit
4. Roaring Twenties
5. Intolerance of Immigrants
6. Experiences of Women
7. Experiences of Black People
8. Prohibition



*You could do revision cards!!!*

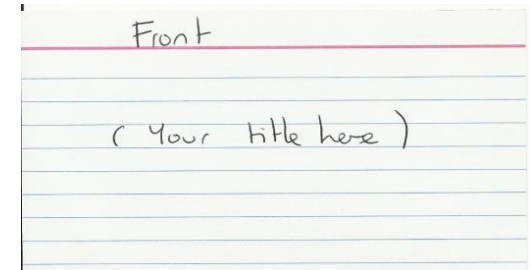


Topic: 1930s  
Depression and  
Recovery - Revision  
Focus Areas

9. Wall Street Crash Causes
10. Great Depression Impact
11. Actions of President Hoover
12. 1932 Presidential Election
13. Aims of Roosevelt's New Deal
14. Key Parts of the New Deal
15. Opposition to the New Deal
16. Successes and Failures of the New Deal



*You could do revision cards!!!*

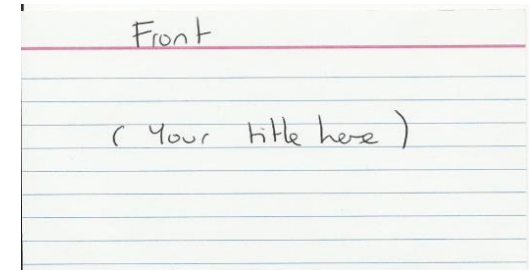


17. Red Scare and Response
18. McCarthyism
19. Post War Popular Culture
20. Problems for Black People
21. Education Protests of 1950s
22. Bus Boycott
23. Martin Luther King Protests of 1960s
24. Black Power
25. Civil Right Successes in 1960s
26. President Kennedy and President Johnson
27. Women's Movement and Protest Groups
28. Abortion

## Topic: Post War America - Revision Focus Areas



*You could do revision cards!!!*



# America Card 1

## Key Features of the Boom

**Economic Boom** = When 1920s America became even richer as a country. This meant:

1. more people had jobs and money
2. more people demanded and bought goods.
3. more things got made
4. businesses expanded and got bigger

Examples of businesses that did well in the 1920s were:

- Cars/transport - Ford Model T. 26 million cars were sold in America in 1929. Millions on miles of roads built.
- Consumer goods - big rise in washing machines, radios, vacuum cleaners, fridges. 70% of people now had electricity.
- Construction - age of skyscrapers. Empire States Building built.
- Clothing - sales went up by 427% in the 1920s.

America Card 2

Reasons for the Boom

A number of different factors helped American businesses to do well in the 1920s. These included:

## 1. Effects of WW1

- America came out of WW1 better than other countries so could focus on business
- America had got rich during WW1 supplying food and weapons to Europe

## 2. Republican Government Policies

- Low Taxes - helped rich people invest more in businesses and others to buy more
- Import Tariffs - taxes put on foreign goods made people buy American goods.
- Laissez-faire attitude - Government let businesses get on with it, no interference

## 3. New methods of Mass Production

- Started with Henry Ford in the car industry
- Assembly line - made making quicker and cheaper as unskilled workers could be used
- Standardisation - using same parts (only black paint for Ford) reduced costs too

## 4. New Ways on Buying and Selling

- Hire Purchase - 'Hire purchase' and 'but now, pay later' which increased customers
- Mail Order Catalogues/Billboards - helped businesses to reach more customers

America Card Card 3

People who didn't benefit  
from the Boom

# Not everyone in America benefitted from the Boom.

## 1. Farmers

- Over production - Combine harvesters made farming too efficient.
- Prices fall - Too much food was made so farmers had to cut prices in order to sell it.
- Evictions - May farmers went out of business. In 1924 alone 600,000 lost their farms.

## 2. New Immigrants

- Discrimination - mistreated and forced to take any work available

## 3. Blacks

- Unemployment - many workers on farms so lost jobs
- Discrimination - only offered low paying jobs or domestic service.

## 4. People who worked in Old Industries

- Cotton (textiles), tin, coal and copper workers suffered due to overproduction and alternatives (electricity) to these products.

America Card 4

Roaring Twenties

As businesses got richer, the lives of many people improved too due to higher wages and more leisure time. This led to:

## **1. Jazz**

- 'Jazz Age' - The young loved it, older people thought dangerous!
- Black music and musicians dominated the music industry (Louis Armstrong).
- Fed into dancehalls, popular music and stage musicals.

## **1. Clubs and Dancing**

- Slow, formal dances replaced by fast dances (Charleston) with an openly sexual element to them.

## **1. Cinema**

- Sales increased - 100 million tickets sold a week at end of 1920s
- Impact on youngsters - Copying styles of their favourite stars.
- First 'speaking' film - Al Jolson's 'Jazz Singer' in 1929

BUT NOT EVERYONE WAS HAPPY. SOME OLDER AND RELIGIOUS PEOPLE THOUGHT THE ROARING 20S WAS IMMORAL!

America Card 5

Intolerance of Immigrants

## 1. Work

- Immigrants were a group who didn't do well out of the economic boom.
- Forced to take low paying jobs because they didn't speak English.

## 2. Red Scare

- Communist Revolution in Russia alarmed some American business owners.
- Some worried immigrants would bring 'Un-American ideas' to America.
- Vanzetti and Sacco were 2 immigrants executed for murder. Most people are now convinced that they were innocent and only convicted because they were foreign. The judge used racist names for them.

## 3. New Laws brought in to limit immigrants

- 1921 Immigration Quota Act - Meant new immigrants were allowed to enter in proportion to the number of people of the same nationality who had been in America in 1910.
- National Origins Act 1924 - meant the majority of new immigrants came from Britain, Ireland and Germany rather than Eastern Europe or Italy.

America Card 6

Experiences of Women

Some but not all women went through a lot of social change in the 1920s which gave them more freedom and opportunity.

### •Examples where women saw a lot of change

1. Employment - more jobs became available to women in mechanised factories and offices. By the end of the 1920s over 10 million women were in paid employment.
2. Flappers - young city girls used the independence they got from paid work to live new exciting lifestyles. They wore short skirts, had short 'bobbed' hair, smoked, drank and went out without chaperones.
3. It Girls - new 'Sex symbols' in movies like Clara Bow

### •Examples where women saw little change

1. Poor/rural women - never had the opportunity to be a flapper. Traditional ideas remained. Poor women couldn't afford new labour saving devices (vacuum cleaners etc) to help them.
2. Employment - women were still paid less than men.

America Card 7

Experiences of black people

Some black people found opportunity in 1920s America but for most it was a bad time.

### •Examples where black people's lives improved

1. Black Renaissance - Black culture and pride did flourish in cities like New York. In Harlem Black music, dancers and comedians attracted big audiences.
2. Music - Black American music, whether jazz, blues or soul became influential.

### •Examples where black people still faced discrimination

1. Ku Klux Klan - Had over 5 million members. Very popular in parts of South where Judges and police could be members. Secret organisation. Hated all non WASPs (White, Anglo-Saxon Protestants), Used lynching (illegal hangings) and other methods to scare and intimidated black people.
2. Discrimination - In the South Segregation meant black people had worse facilities and services. In northern cities they could also paid less than white people and made to pay higher rents.

America Card 8

Prohibition

In 1920 America introduced Prohibition and became 'dry'. The making, transportation and selling of alcohol was illegal.

### •Reasons it was introduced

1. Campaign Groups - Groups like the Anti-Saloon League and Women's Christian Temperance Union claimed alcohol was responsible for many social problems such as violence, poverty and crime.
2. Businesses - Owners like Henry Ford blamed alcohol for high absenteeism (workers off sick) and said banning it would improve things.
3. WW1 - Many US brewers were originally from Germany (Budweiser etc) so drinking during WW1 was seen as unpatriotic and helping the enemy.

### •Reasons it failed

1. Lack of public support - Drink related crime actually went up as many ordinary people continued to drink. Some made their own moonshine.
2. Resources - there was only 2500 Prohibition Agents to cover all America.
3. Links to Organised crime - Gangsters quickly became involved in bootlegging and running speakeasies (secret bars). They bribed poorly paid police to look the other way. Al Capone was making over \$100 million dollars a year in the 1920s.

# America Card 9

## Causes of the Wall Street Crash

In Oct 1929 there was a great crash in the American stock market which had terrible consequences for people and businesses. This was because:

### 1. Overproduction

- Mass Production methods led to some businesses making more goods than they could sell.
- Those who could afford goods had bought most of what they wanted.

### 2. Poverty in America

- Nearly 50% of American families earned less than \$2000 dollars a year. They couldn't afford to buy new consumer goods like cars or fridges.

### 3. Tariffs on foreign goods

- Helped American businesses in USA but foreign countries hit back and put their own tariffs on American businesses selling goods in their countries.

### 4. Speculation on stock market

- Too many people 'bought on the margin' and borrowed money from banks to pay shares. They wanted to 'get rich quick'.
- When share values started to fall these people panicked and this led to mass share selling. Prices crashed and businesses lost million in value.

America Card 10

Great Depression Impact

The Great Depression lasted through the 1930s and was a time of great hardship for America. Some examples were

## 1. Work

- 14 million people were unemployed or 25% of available work force
- Production fell dramatically in many industries. Car production was cut by 80% and road and building construction by 92%
- Wages fell in some industries by up to 60%

## 2. Homelessness

- Many people lost their homes as they couldn't keep up with mortgage payments
- In 1932 alone a quarter of a million Americans had their homes repossessed - couldn't keep up with mortgages.
- Thousands lived in shanty towns named 'Hoovervilles' after the President

## 3. Banks

- 5000 banks went bankrupt 1929-1932. People started keeping their money and not saving/spending it.

## 4. Companies

- In 1932 alone 20,000 businesses closed down.

America Card 11

Actions of President Hoover

Herbert Hoover was President of America when the Wall Street Crash happened. He was criticized for not doing enough to help people.

**1. Actions taken** - Hoover did do some things but people thought they were too little, too late. For example:

- Tariffs - The Smoot-Hawley Tariff raised tariffs on over 20,000 imported goods to record levels but this made the Depression much worse as foreign countries increased their tariffs on American companies in response.
- Work Schemes - Hoover gave \$4 billion to state governments to set up schemes to provide work e.g. the construction of the Hoover Dam.
- Helping poor - The Emergency Relief Act gave \$300 million to provide unemployment pay but so many were unemployed this didn't do much.

**2. Beliefs** - He believed in 'laissez-faire' and 'rugged individualism'. Thought people should help themselves out of the Depression.

**3. Bonus Army** - Hoover used the army to get rid of a group of ex-servicemen protesting outside the Whitehouse and asking for their army pensions early. 2 babies died. Looked like he didn't care.

America Card 12

1932 Presidential Election

The 1932 Election was a landslide victory for Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the Democrats. Reasons for this include:

### 1. Hoover as a person was unpopular

- Treatment of Bonus Army Veterans looked like he didn't care

### 2. Hoover and Republicans ideas unpopular

- Ideas like 'laissez-faire' and 'rugged individualism' offered no help for people

### 3. Roosevelt as a person was popular

- Great public speaker who travelled around the country. Looked like he cared.
- Was disabled from Polio and used a wheelchair. Had come through tough times and seemed the man to help America through tough times

### 4. Roosevelt and Democrats ideas popular

- Promised 'Government Action' and 'Action Now'. Seemed to have a plan for getting out of the Depression.

# America Card 13

## Aims of Roosevelt's New Deal

Roosevelt (also known as FDR) won the 1932 Presidential Election and promised people 'Government Action'.

His 3 big aims were known as the '3 Rs'.

**1. Relief** - Relieve extreme poverty, feed the starving and stop people losing their homes or farms.

**2. Recovery:** Revive the economy/businesses by getting industry going and people working again.

**3. Reform** - Make the USA a better place for ordinary people by bringing in new laws such as unemployment insurance and old-age pensions, and help the sick, disabled and needy.

# America Card 14

Key Parts of the New Deal

## 1. Emergency Banking Act:

- Closed all of America's banks for four days so they could be inspected.
- Only banks that were well run were be allowed to reopen.

## 2. Fireside Chats

- FDR would go on the radio and explain what he had done to build confidence.

## 3. Ending Prohibition (allowed people to drink again):

- Helped to restart the beer industry and government could get money from tax.

## 4. Alphabet Agencies:

- Roosevelt 15 acts which became known by their initials as the 'Alphabet Agencies'. All aimed at ending the Depression. These included:
  - **AAA (Agricultural Adjustment Act)** -Paid **farmers** to produce less food, by taking land out of production or reducing livestock. This allowed prices to go up.
  - **PWA (Public Works Administration)** - Helped the **unemployed**. Lots of money was spent on public works such as building hospitals, bridges and schools.
  - **NRA (National Recovery Administration)** - Aimed to get **industry** back up and running. It fixed prices for goods, limited worker's hours and set minimum wages.

America Card 15

Opposition to the New Deal

Not everyone liked Roosevelt or his New Deal.

### 1. Republicans

- Objected to the huge costs of the New Deal.

### 2. Business

- Didn't like the government interference in their businesses.

### 3. Rich

- Wealthy Americans resented having to pay higher taxes.

### 4. Activists

- **Huey Long** believed the New Deal did not do enough to help **poor**. Believed wealth over \$5million should be confiscated and used to help all Americans.
- **Father Coughlin (radio priest)** originally supported the New Deal, but later turned against Roosevelt claiming he wasn't doing enough for the poor.

### 5. The Supreme Court

- Ruled the NRA and AAA were unconstitutional (illegal) because the Constitution did not allow a President to make laws to control businesses or agriculture.
- In 1937, Roosevelt threatened to force 'old' Supreme Court judges to retire. Shaken by this some did retire and future laws were passed in Roosevelt's favour.

# America Card 16

## Successes and Failures of New Deal

People disagree about just how success.

• **Arguments it was successful**

1. Millions of men got work via Agencies like the CCC and PWA.
2. 200,000 black men got work with the CCC.
3. Banking Act restored people's trust in banks and led to more people saving again, This would later help businesses through bank loans.
4. Roosevelt gave some important jobs to women. His wife Eleanor Roosevelt became an important campaigner for social issues.

• **Arguments it was not successful**

1. Even though unemployment fell it was still 6 million in 1941.
2. WW2 ended the Depression as people joined the army or factories
3. Black people and women received little help from the New Deal. Segregation continued and only 8,000 women got work from the CCC compared to 3 million men.

America Card 17

Red Scare and Response

Inside America a 'Red Scare' took place as people feared that spies in America were passing secrets back to Russia (Soviet Union) during the Cold War.

## 1. Federal Employee Loyalty Board

- 3 million government workers were checked by the FBI
- 212 government workers lost jobs as security risks

## 2. HUAC (House Un-American Activities Committee)

- Court linked to Congress. Could investigate any un-American acts.
- Big focus on entertainment industry - the Hollywood 10 went to prison for refusing to answer questions.

## 3. Alger Hiss

- Worked for government state department. Went to prison for 5 years for perjury after lying about knowing Whittaker Chambers (Communist)

## 4. Rosenbergs

- Couple of scientists arrested and executed for spying.
- Scared people as they were an ordinary people. Anyone could be a spy.

America Card 18

McCarthy and McCarthyism

Senator Joseph McCarthy became world famous in 1950s. McCarthyism refers to the practice of making wild accusations often with little proof.

- McCarthy's tactics

- Would go to the press and claim he had a list of names from an FBI source.
- He wouldn't reveal the names at first to build tension.
- Anyone who attacked him was called a 'Communist Sympathiser'.

- McCarthy's targets

- Government - said he had list of 200 Communists in state department
- Universities/libraries - attacked people like Professor Hugh Lattimore
- Politicians - Senator Tydings lost an election for speaking out against McCarthy
- Entertainment - many actors, writers and directors were blacklisted

- McCarthy's downfall

- Some newspapers like the Washington Post did try to write balanced reports.
- McCarthy accused the army of having spies in it. This backfired as few people believed it. The army lawyer Joseph humiliated him on TV.

America Card 19

Post War Popular Culture

The 'teenager' became a thing in the 1950s as new laws and attitudes saw children stay at school until 18. These teenagers had money from part time jobs and more free time. This led to a new 'popular culture'.

## **1. Music**

- Record companies made new records for teenagers.
- Rock n Roll became popular with musicians like Elvis Presley.
- Lyrics inspired teenager rebellion and sexual freedom.

## **2. Music**

- Movie companies made new films for teenagers.
- Movies such as 'The Wild One' and 'Rebel without a cause' encouraged teenagers to challenge authority and their parents.
- Stars included Marlon Brando, James Dean and Marilyn Monroe.

MANY TEENAGERS FROM THE 1950S ENDED UP JOINING THE CIVIL RIGHTS PROTESTS AND ANTI-VIETNAM WAR PROTESTS OF THE 1960S.

America Card 20

Problems for black people

Many black people continued to face problems in the 1950s

### 1. Segregation in the South

- The Jim Crow laws remained legal in 17 states
- Meant it was ok to have separate facilities and services

### 2. Black Schools in the South

- Worse facilities and resources
- Overcrowded classrooms
- Teachers paid 30% less so struggled to get good teachers
- Universities often wouldn't let black students in

### 3. Voting

- Despite it being legal, many black people couldn't vote.
- Prevented by intimidation or excluded by Literacy tests

America Card 21

Education Protests of 1950s

Black people in the south suffered from segregated schools in the 1950s. Two famous cases where this was challenged were:

## 1. Brown vs Board of Education, 1954

- Linda Brown had to cross a dangerous railway to get to a black school
- Her Dad got the support of the NAACP to challenge school segregation
- In the case the Supreme Court ruled that segregation in school should end with 'all deliberate speed'
- This would affect all of America but there was no clear date for change

## 2. Little Rock Nine, 1957

- Nine black students attempted to go to Little Rock High
- Faced huge crowds and intimidation outside
- Local Governor, Faubus, sent state troops to the school but told them not to help as segregation was popular
- Media coverage made the President to send federal troops in for 6 weeks
- The Little Rock 9 succeeded and this showed importance of media and Presidential support for achieving civil rights change

America Card 22

Bus Boycott

The Bus Boycott took place in Montgomery between 1955 and 1956. It challenged bus segregation. Key events were:

- Rosa Parkes refusing to give up her seat and being arrested
- The NAACP taking on Rosa's case and going to court
- Martin Luther King (MLK) becoming leader of the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA)
- Over 90% of local black people agreeing not to ride the buses
- MLK's house bombed but he insisted on sticking to non-violence
- Bus Company loses 65% of income so after 382 days it gives in
- Supreme Court rules bus laws are illegal - affects all America

America Card 23

Martin Luther King Protests  
of 1960s

After the Bus Boycott Martin Luther King (MLK) continued to be an important Civil Rights Leader. Some important protests were:

### 1. Birmingham, 1963

- Birmingham 'most racist city in America', Police Chief Bull Connor had links to KKK
- MLK led a march in the city and got arrested
- Children carried march on but police used hoses and dogs
- Media coverage gained lots of sympathy for protestors and the President forced Birmingham to release the prisoners and desegregate in 90 days

### 2. March on Washington, 1963

- 250,000 protestors went to Washington DC, 50,000 people at speech were white
- MLK 'I have a dream' speech at Lincoln Memorial - 100 years after slavery ended
- Media coverage showed how there was lots of support for civil rights
- Soon President Kennedy introduces 'Civil Rights Bill' - becomes law in 1964

### 3. Selma, 1965

- Only 2.5% of black people could vote due to intimidation and Literacy tests
- MLK led a march but stopped halfway along Selma bridge to avoid violence
- Media coverage generated lots of sympathy and respect for marchers
- Soon President Johnson introduces a 'Voting Bill' to ban Literacy tests

America Card 24

Black Power

Black Power - terms for lots of people/groups that thought MLK was bringing change too slowly and that violence should be used if needed.

All these groups put pressure on the government to make changes (they didn't want violence) and this may have pushed them to work with MLK

### 1. Nation of Islam and Malcolm X

- Malcolm X - great speaker, recruited 1000s of young people incl Muhammad Ali
- Believed in black people getting own separate land from white people
- Said ok to use 'any means necessary' - inspired some people to join Black Panthers

### 2. Black Panthers

- A few thousand members, dressed in military uniform and had guns
- Wanted separate land, release of all black prisoners and black people to be exempt from Vietnam War
- Linked to race riots and had some shoot outs with police

### 3. Olympic Games Protest, 1968

- 200m runners John Carlos and Tommie Smith made black hand gesture on podium
- Millions saw this on the TV
- They received death threats and were sent home from the Olympic Games

America Card 25

Civil Rights Successes of  
1960s

There were lots of changes/improvements but the most important were:

## 1. Civil Rights Act 1964

- First introduced by President Kennedy in 1963 after MLK's March to Washington
- After Kennedy assassinated finished by President Johnson
- Made it illegal for local government to discriminate against people in housing and services

## 2. Voting Act 1965

- Introduced by President Johnson after MLK's Selma march
- The law allowed the national Federal government to inspect local voting procedures
- Outlawed Literacy tests
- Became law in 1968 and many black people now registered to vote

America Card 26

President Kennedy and  
President Johnson

Both President Kennedy and President Johnson tried to improve American society. They had different levels of success.

## 1. President Kennedy (1961-1963)

- Believed in the New Frontier - promised to make America fairer and end poverty
- In Oct 1962, sent 23,000 troops to ensure black student James Meredith could study at the University of Mississippi without being hounded out by racists.
- Introduced the Civil Rights Bill in 1963
- Assassinated (murdered) before he could achieve a lot of change

## 2. President Johnson (1963-1968)

- Believed in the Great Society - promised to make America a better, fairer society
- Spent \$800 million on tackling poverty, helped poor black people
- Passed the Civil Rights Act - outlawed local government discrimination/segregation
- Passed the Voting Act - outlawed Literacy tests which helped many black people

America Card 27

Women Protest Groups

During the 1960/70s many women were unhappy that women were still paid on average 50% less than men. The Contraceptive Pill also meant women had greater control over their families and could focus on work.

## 1. Betty Friedan and Now

- Wrote 'the Femine Mystique' book, inspired women to be more than a housewife
- Set up National Organisation of Women (NOW) to campaign, 40,000 members
- Used similar tactics to MLK - marches, speeches,

## 2. Women's Liberation Movement

- More militant group, did protests like bra burning and crowned a sheep Miss World

## 3. Evidence of Success

- Secured \$30 million dollars of back pay for women paid less than men in 1972
- Supreme Court ruled that sex discrimination in adverts was illegal in 1973

## 4. Evidence of Continued Problems

- Phyllis Schlafly and 'Stop ERA' prevented Equal Rights Amendment being passed
- Women continued to suffer more from problems like poverty and unemployment

America Card 28

Abortion

Abortion and a Woman's right to choose was a big issue in the 1960s/70s. At the time it was illegal to have an abortion in 46 out of 50 states.

## 1. Griswold vs State of Connecticut

- In Connecticut not only abortion but also contraception and giving advice about contraception was illegal
- Estelle Griswold, young medical student, challenged the law in court
- Won a Supreme Court case saying Connecticut's laws restricted a woman's right to privacy
- This didn't directly allow abortion

## 2. Roe vs Wade

- Key legal case involving Jane Roe (real name Norma McConvery).
- Wanted an abortion in Texas but not allowed
- Had already had 3 children taken away from her because she couldn't care for them
- Sarah Weddington - feminist lawyer - took on the case at the Supreme Court
- Court ruling allowed women the right to have an abortion up until the 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester
- Meant law had to change in 46 states