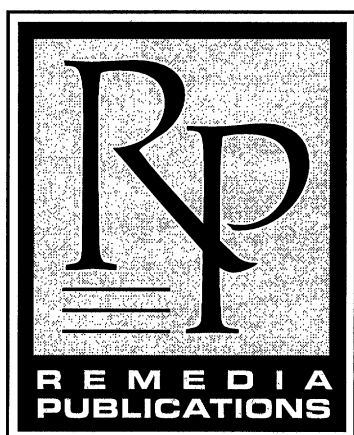


HIGHLIGHTS IN HISTORY 1940 – 1965

REM 464

A TEACHING RESOURCE FROM...



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Martha C. Reith

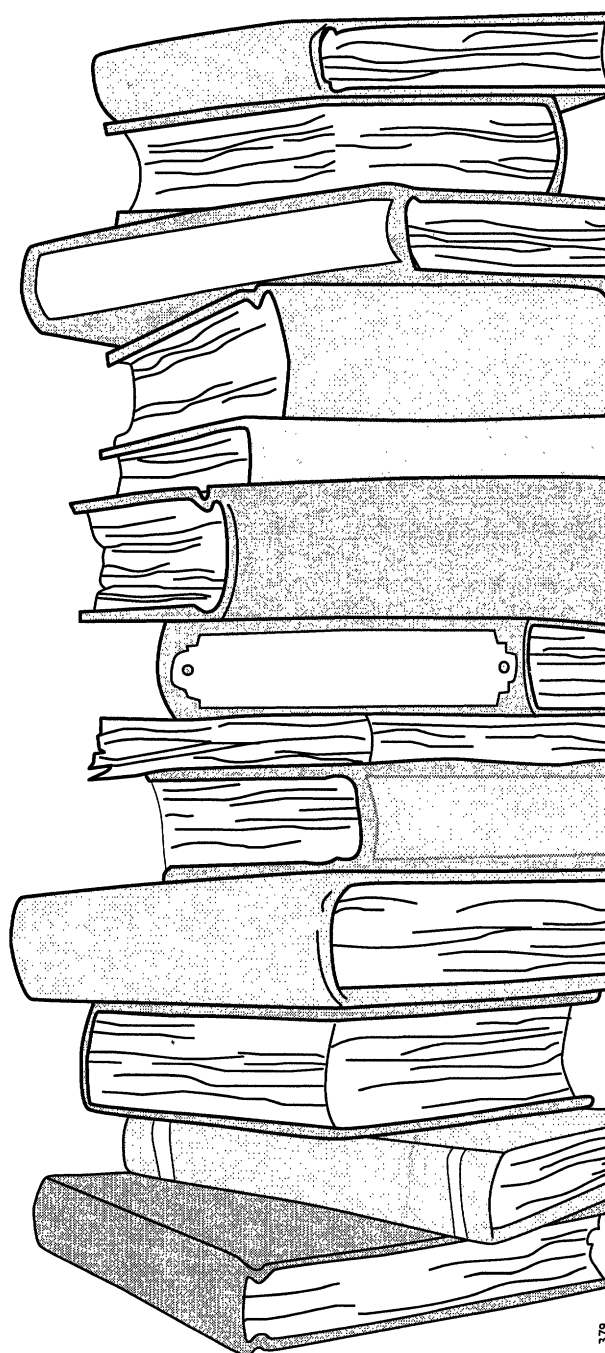
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Highlights in History

Note to the teacher:

In this unit of highlights, we look at the events and people of the 1900's, with a focus on the middle of the century. This is an era that brings technology into everyday life; therefore, this unit includes many of the highlights that reflect this new era, as well as stories about the many important events of this period that changed the world for all time. A time line activity is included in this unit so students can visualize the interaction of all these events. Instead of a compartmentalized approach to education, this unit attempts to present to students an integrated view of history, including achievements in science, music, art, world events, and inventions.

Included are:

GET THE FACTS — A Pre/Post Test

1940 People and Machines

1941 Pearl Harbor: America Enters World War II

1942 Nuclear Power is Born

1942 Aaron Copland: Composer

1944 D-Day: "Operation Overlord"

1945 World War II

SUMMARIZE: Stories 1-6

1946 The Age of Computers Begins

1947 The Dying City

1948 Golda Meir Makes a Dream Come True

1950 The Korean War

1952 Albert Schweitzer: A Model for Mankind

1954 Jonas E. Salk: Conqueror of Polio

SUMMARIZE: Stories 7-12

1954 Ernest Hemingway: Author

1954 The Supreme Court Rules

1955 The Peaceful Protest

1955 Television Takes Over

1956 "Babe" Didrikson: Athlete

1957 Leonard Bernstein: A Man of Many Musical Talents

SUMMARIZE: Stories 13-18

1957 Space: The New Frontier

1958 Picasso: Master Painter

1960 Twiggy and the Mini-Skirt

1960 Rock and Roll: Elvis Presley and The Beatles

1961 The Astronauts: New American Heroes

1963 Death in Dallas

SUMMARIZE: Stories 19-24

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Time Line 1940-1965: The Unit Events

Elvis Presley Trivia Quiz: Enrichment Activity

TV Schedule: Back to the Fifties (Reading a Schedule)

Research Page: I Would Like to Find Out More About . . .

GET THE FACTS

1. What type of factory work replaced the work of the craftsmen in the early 1900's?

2. When did the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor?

3. Who led scientists in the development of nuclear power?

4. Whose famous works included *Appalachian Spring* and *Rodeo*?

5. What was "Operation Overlord"?

6. In what year did World War II end?

7. What was given the name ENIAC?

8. What invention helped people leave the cities?

9. Who was Golda Meir?

10. Who was General Douglas MacArthur?

11. In which African village did Albert Schweitzer build a hospital?

12. What is polio?

Name _____

Pre/Post Test (continued)

13. Who wrote *For Whom the Bell Tolls*?

14. What court ruled on *Brown vs Board of Education of Topeka*?

15. Who was Martin Luther King?

16. What is an “idiot box” or “boob tube”?

17. For what sport was “Babe” Didrikson most famous?

18. What famous show did Leonard Bernstein write in 1957?

19. What was *Sputnik*?

20. Who developed the painting style called “cubism”?

21. Who was the most famous model of the '60s?

22. Who was the “king of rock and roll” in the '60s?

23. Who was the first American to fly in space?

24. In which city was President Kennedy assassinated?

People and Machines

An elevator travel up 25 stories! An airplane speeds across the sky! Messages hurry across telephone wires! By 1940, machines were all around us! What used to take thousands of hours of work by hand, now took minutes.

Advances in technology (machinery and automation) meant more jobs, higher pay, and shorter hours. Farmers were able to produce more food for the country. Shorter work hours also meant that people had more time for recreation. People lived longer because they had better health care. America's population grew from 75 million in 1900 to 130 million in 1940.



But, this scientific advancement also caused some problems. The factory assembly line, where one person does one part of a job and passes the job on to the next person, was boring. The old-time craftsman no longer took pride in his work. Also, the idea of one person building something from start to finish was gone. Instead of being responsible for a finished product, a person might only tighten one bolt. Man, himself became a machine. Many workers lost special skills and became part of a large, unskilled group.

Because of the great increase in production, natural resources were being used at an alarming rate. Pollution and conservation became important concerns.

Something happened at the end of World War II that shocked the world. Atomic energy was introduced in the form of a bomb. For the first time, mankind wondered if science was going to save or destroy them.

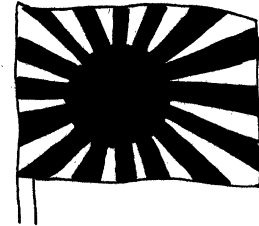
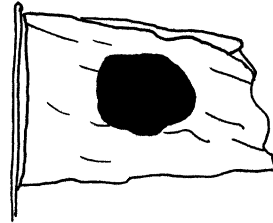
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1. In what year did America's population reach 130 million? _____
 2. In what ways did machines help people? _____

 3. What problems did people face because of advances in science and technology? _____

BONUS: On the back of this paper, name three kinds of machines. Tell how each helps make life easier.

Pearl Harbor: America Enters World War II

The quiet of the peaceful morning was shattered by the sound of planes overhead. Then, bombs seemed to explode everywhere. On December 7, 1941, at 7:55 A.M., the American Naval base at Pearl Harbor was surprised by a Japanese attack. By ten o'clock that morning, black smoke hung in the air over the destroyed warships.



One huge explosion had broken the *U.S.S. Arizona* in half, killing 1,100 men. Three battleships had been sunk. Many smaller ships and 100 planes had also been destroyed. Worst of all, about 2,400 soldiers and sailors had been killed.

Why did this happen? Japan wanted the war to spread so they could get more raw materials. Japan especially needed rubber, tin, and oil. The United States had warned Japan that if it kept attacking other countries, we would stop sending them goods. The United States insisted that Japan leave China. The two governments had been discussing these problems when Japan began its surprise attack on Pearl Harbor.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States, was very upset when he heard of the attack. The next day, he got a declaration of war from Congress. The United States declared war on Japan. In return, Germany and Italy (Japan's friends) declared war on the United States. The long battle began.

"Remember Pearl Harbor!" became a national battle cry, like "Remember the Alamo!"

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1. On what date did the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor? _____
 2. Why did Japan want the war to spread? _____

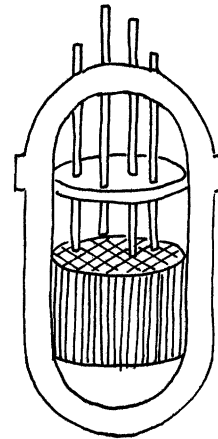
 3. Who was President of the United States at this time? _____

BONUS: Describe the destruction at Pearl Harbor.

Nuclear Power is Born

The scientists, all wearing coveralls made black by dust, gathered around what looked like a huge pile of bricks. These bricks were as black as coal and were piled 26 feet high in the large room. The walls, ceiling, and floor of the room were greasy and black.

The date was December 2, 1942, and this day would change forever the history of man. It would be on this day that scientists would learn whether or not they could release and control nuclear energy. Would the nuclear reactor work?



NUCLEAR REACTOR

Enrico Fermi, the leader of the group, checked and rechecked the instruments. Finally, at 3:25 in the afternoon, the last part of the experiment took place. The reactor did work, and nuclear power was born!

In 1944, Fermi went to Los Alamos, New Mexico, where he was in charge of the atomic bomb. Then, on July 16, 1945, the first atomic bomb was exploded at Alamogordo, New Mexico. All the scientists had mixed feelings about the test. They were excited about nuclear power. However, they were worried about the power being used for destruction.

Since 1945, no atomic bombs have been used in war. However, a large number of nuclear plants have been built. Today, these plants make energy for peaceful purposes. Also, some reactors are used to produce useful materials for medical and scientific research.

1. Who was the chief scientist in charge of developing the nuclear reactor?

2. On what date did the scientists learn they could release and control nuclear energy?

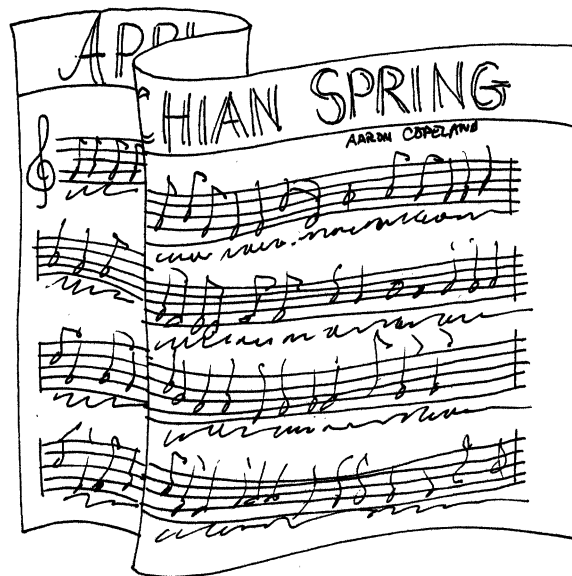
3. Where was the first atomic bomb tested? When?

BONUS: List some uses of nuclear energy today.

Aaron Copland: Composer

"I was born on a street that can only be described as drab. Music was the last thing anyone would have connected with it." Aaron Copland, the writer of these words, became one of the most important composers of the century.

Copland was born in Brooklyn, New York, on November 14, 1900. His older sister taught him to play the piano. By the time he was 15 years old, he knew he wanted to become a composer. He studied music through a mail course, music schools, and finally, in Paris, France, with a brilliant teacher.



Aaron Copland is best known for his use of American themes. He worked with jazz and folk songs to create his own music. His most famous works include *The Tender Land* (1954), *Appalachian Spring* (1945), and *Rodeo* (1942).

When Aaron was a young man, he learned a lesson that would stay with him all his life. The French music publisher, Durand, offered to buy his music for \$25.00. Aaron accepted quickly! Twenty-five dollars seemed like a lot of money to him. Later, Durand sold thousands of copies of the music and made a lot of money. But, Copland did not receive a penny more. Aaron Copland did not make that mistake again. He became a wise businessman as well as a famous composer.

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1. List two of Copland's works and the years in which they were published.

2. What types of music did Copland use to create his own music?

3. Where was Aaron Copland born? When?

BONUS: Why wasn't it good business for Copland to sell his music for \$25.00?
