

The Great Gatsby

- ❖ Flappers were a substantial part of the roaring twenties and they dominated the city, with short skirts, short hair and cigarettes in their hands.
- ❖ By the 1920s, New York boasted nearly 6 million residents and served as a booming center for immigrants and migrants entering the city through road, rail and boats.

Fitzgerald

- ❖ His wife was called Zelda, who was a bit flirty, and this was reflected in many short stories and novels.
- ❖ After breaking off the engagement because she was unwilling to live on his small salary, they both went their separate ways.
- ❖ He became a second lieutenant, and was stationed at Camp Sheridan, in Montgomery, Alabama. There he met and fell in love with a seventeen-year-old Zelda Sayre.
- ❖ When he made his break for the Great Gatsby, Zelda came back and they honeymooned at the Biltermore Hotel. However, they got asked to leave because of their raucous parties.
- ❖ Zelda was killed in a fire in a mental institution.
- ❖ His next novel, *Tender in the Night*, was unsuccessful so Fitzgerald moved to Hollywood and became a scriptwriter.

Prohibition

- ❖ Many people made their own alcohol at home, called moonshine, but this wasn't very well made and caused several deaths and illnesses.
- ❖ Gangsters (like Al Capone) also smuggled alcohol into America and made millions of dollars as a result.

Movies and Hollywood Stars

- ❖ Movie stars such as Clara Bow had a huge impact on society and may have been part of the reason why many young girls behaved the way they did.
- ❖ Many people wanted to act like them.

Modernization

- ❖ The modernist period also brought changes to the portrayal of gender roles and especially to women's roles in society.

Quotes About The Fitzgeralds

- ❖ Biographer Nancy Milford described them as 'The apotheosis of the twenties'.
- ❖ Poet Louis Untermeyer said that they were 'flaming youth personified'.
- ❖ 'The reckless exuberance manifested by the Fitzgeralds was typical of a young, affluent generation reacting not only to the tensions of the war just ended but to the emotional reserve of their elders'.

Clothes

- ❖ At this time period women wore drop down waist dresses.