



lingoda

The Lost Generation

READING

LEVEL
Advanced

NUMBER
C1_1023R_EN

LANGUAGE
English

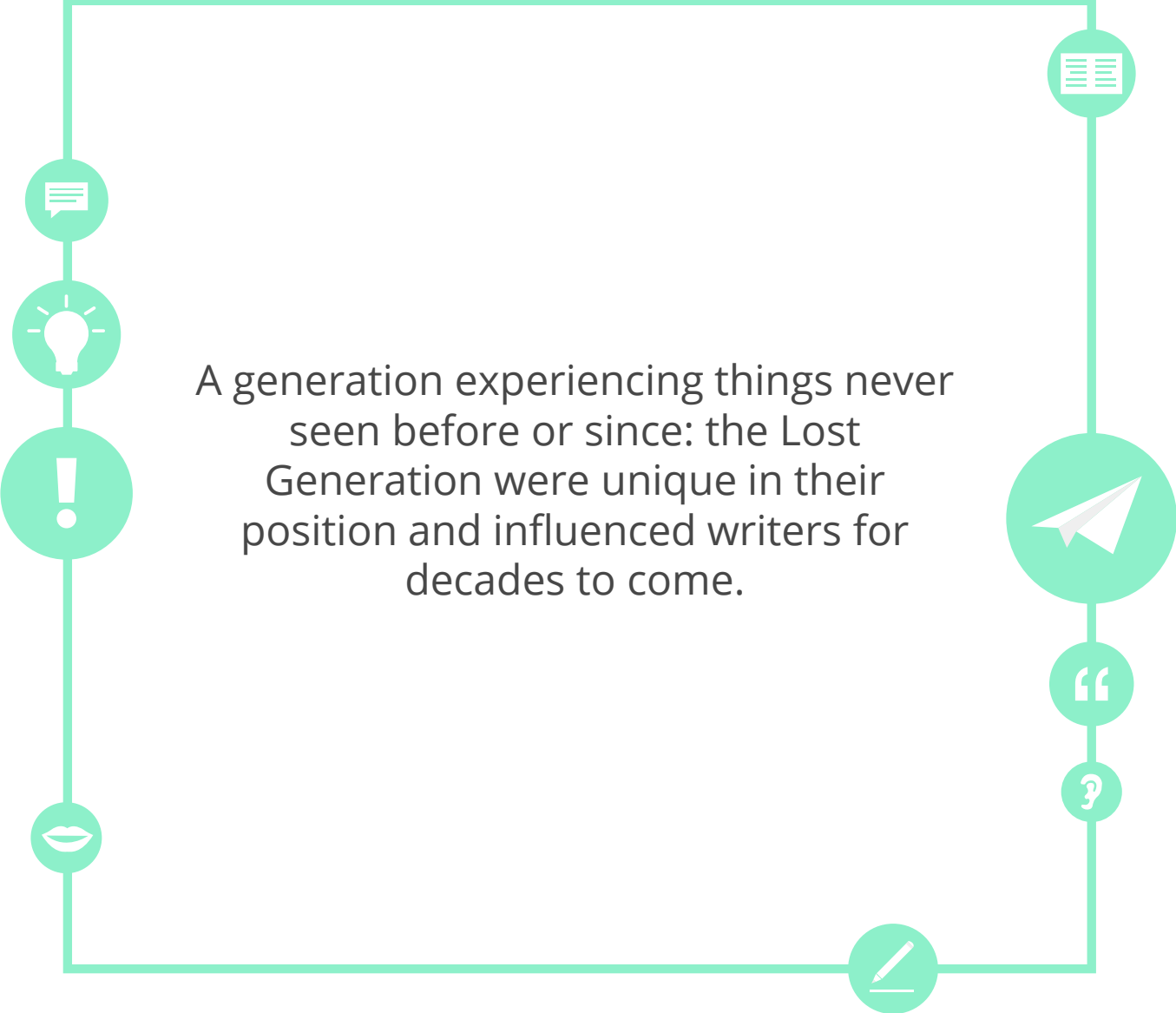




Goals

- Can read and understand a lengthy, factual text about the Lost Generation.
- Can discuss and evaluate the complex relationship between the Lost Generation and the modern world.





A generation experiencing things never seen before or since: the Lost Generation were unique in their position and influenced writers for decades to come.



Do you know about any literary movements?

Give an outline of what you know.



Lost Generation

That is what you are. That's what you all are ... all of you young people who served in the war. You are a lost generation.

– Gertrude Stein

- Who do you think Stein said this to?
- What do you think she meant by this?





What do you know about the Lost Generation?

World War I

1920s

Lost
Generation

decadence

American Dream

technology

prohibition

disillusionment

patriotism

frivolity



Discuss

How do you think the key words on the previous slide relate to the quote from Gertrude Stein?





Background of the Lost Generation

World War I left its scars on society in more ways than the injuries and many people who never returned to their families from the trenches. The generation undergoing its **formative** years during this time was arguably most affected, leading to a group in society with vastly **differing** ideals to the generation before. Whether seen first hand as a young man fighting on the battlefield, or second hand through reports and family members, the youth coming of age during or shortly after World War I had seen the pointless and needless loss of life that was brought by the war.



Background of the Lost Generation



The phrase itself was popularised in the **epigraph** of Hemingway's novel, *The Sun Also Rises*, but had far more **humble** origins; these words were originally **uttered** by the owner of a garage where Gertrude Stein's car was being repaired. She repeated these words in conversation with Ernest Hemingway, adding that that was what they all were.



Background of the Lost Generation



The mechanic's words referred to this generation as a whole, but the term has since become **synonymous** with this group of **expatriate** American writers in 1920s France. Some of its most well-known members included, as well as the two mentioned in the previous slide, F. Scott Fitzgerald, E. E. Cummings, John Don Passos and T.S. Eliot. Hemingway was later inspired to include these words in his book, which **epitomises** the post-war expatriate community.



Match the words from the text with the closest meaning

1. epitome

- a. suggestion b. idea c. recommendation d. a perfect example

2. humble

- a. irrelevant b. low in status c. very important d. unimportant

3. utter

- a. stutter b. shout c. say d. whisper

4. synonymous

- a. the same b. similar c. the opposite d. unclear



What about you?

What do you think of
when somebody says
the words *frivolous* or
excessive?





Discuss

How do you think this background affected the writers and what they would go on to write about?

Are you familiar with the writing of any of the authors mentioned?

Discuss with your group or teacher.



What shaped the Lost Generation?

Continue reading, but this time fill the gaps as you read.

World War I – the Great War – was a defining _____ in _____ for Europe and North America. The scale and _____ of the war went beyond what anyone of that _____ could ever have imagined. The Lost Generation believed that they alone could view the world as _____. Their experience of World War I was something no other _____ before could claim, and therefore could not understand. However, while this _____ separated them from previous generations, it only helped strengthen the _____ between those within it, and the Lost Generation became a close-knit group.

outsiders

destruction

gulf

generation

moment

bonds

era

history



What shaped the Lost Generation?

Continue reading, but this time fill the gaps as you read.

advances

Europe

shape

smaller

fighting

Technology and travel also helped _____ this generation. Whereas for their parents, a trip to _____ would have meant two weeks on a ship, this generation had the alternative of air travel. This was still seen as quite a luxury – and still quite a dangerous one. However, the world was quickly becoming _____. Cars were also becoming a must-have item, opening up many new possibilities.

However, these _____ in technology were also what had shaped the generation: with new inventions for good, come also those for bad. New technology had also created new means of _____ wars, leading to horrors that those who had experienced them could never recover from.





How do these pictures relate to the text you have just read?

Discuss them with your group or teacher





Themes in the Lost Generation's writing



Much of the Lost Generation's writing is **semi-autobiographical**. Many works describe the life of American expats in Paris and the frivolous lifestyle they lived. This **decadence** of the wealthy members of this generation is another major theme, with descriptions of parties with no expense spared, despite the 1920s famously being part of the era of **prohibition** in the USA.

The Lost Generation could be seen as being disillusioned. Their view of WWI led to a lack of understanding of abstract concepts such as bravery, patriotism and courage in the face of such large-scale destruction and uncountable casualties. It is therefore of little wonder that the writers and their characters doubt the point in living such a life.



Themes in the Lost Generation's writing

The writing of the Lost Generation also famously focuses on the **death of the American Dream**. Although this was not yet a recognised term, it is clear that for those who had lived through WWI, the two concepts were **at odds**.

The American Dream is the idea that the aim of life is to reach happiness, beauty and love – having a job, a family and a home. Previous generations had worked hard to make this dream happen, whereas the characters in the Lost Generation's writing gradually reveal themselves to no longer believe in such an ideal. These characters, once again, stand on the outside, as though watching a surreal illusion they can no longer take part in.





Complete the sentences

Complete the sentences about the themes of the Lost Generation's writing.

Are there any more themes in their texts that you are familiar with?

1. Their work is semi-autobiographical, which means...
2. The Lost Generation lived a frivolous, decadent lifestyle despite...
3. The Lost Generation were disillusioned because...
4. The American Dream is....



Over to you

What does **The American Dream** mean to you?

Has the meaning changed since you read the text?





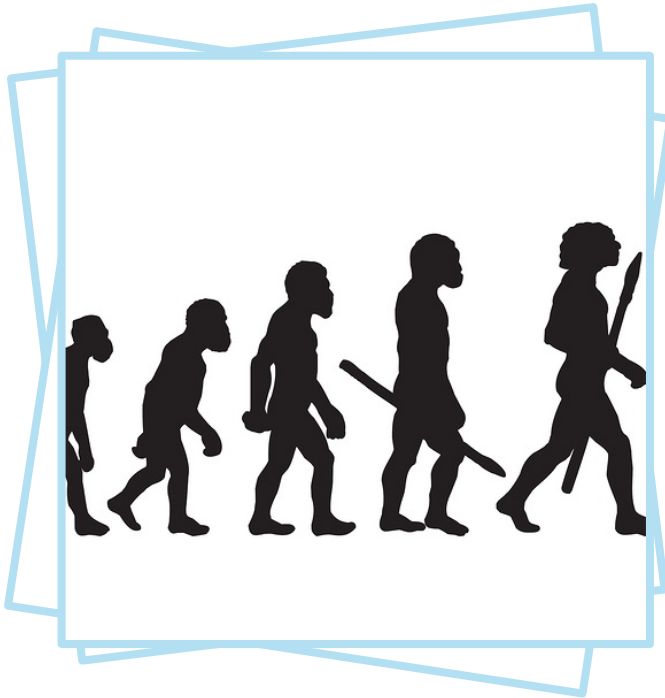
Empathy

**Can you understand
where this movement is
coming from?**

**Would you have been
part of something like
this?**



Discuss



Which events, whether local or global, do you think shaped your generation?

How do they make your generation different to that of your parents?



Writing home

Imagine you were a member of the Lost Generation. Your parents are disappointed in you. Write them a letter trying to explain your lifestyle, and bring them around to your point of view.

A large rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for writing a letter. It contains several horizontal lines for text, with a longer line at the top right and a shorter line at the bottom left, suggesting a starting point for the letter's content.



Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!



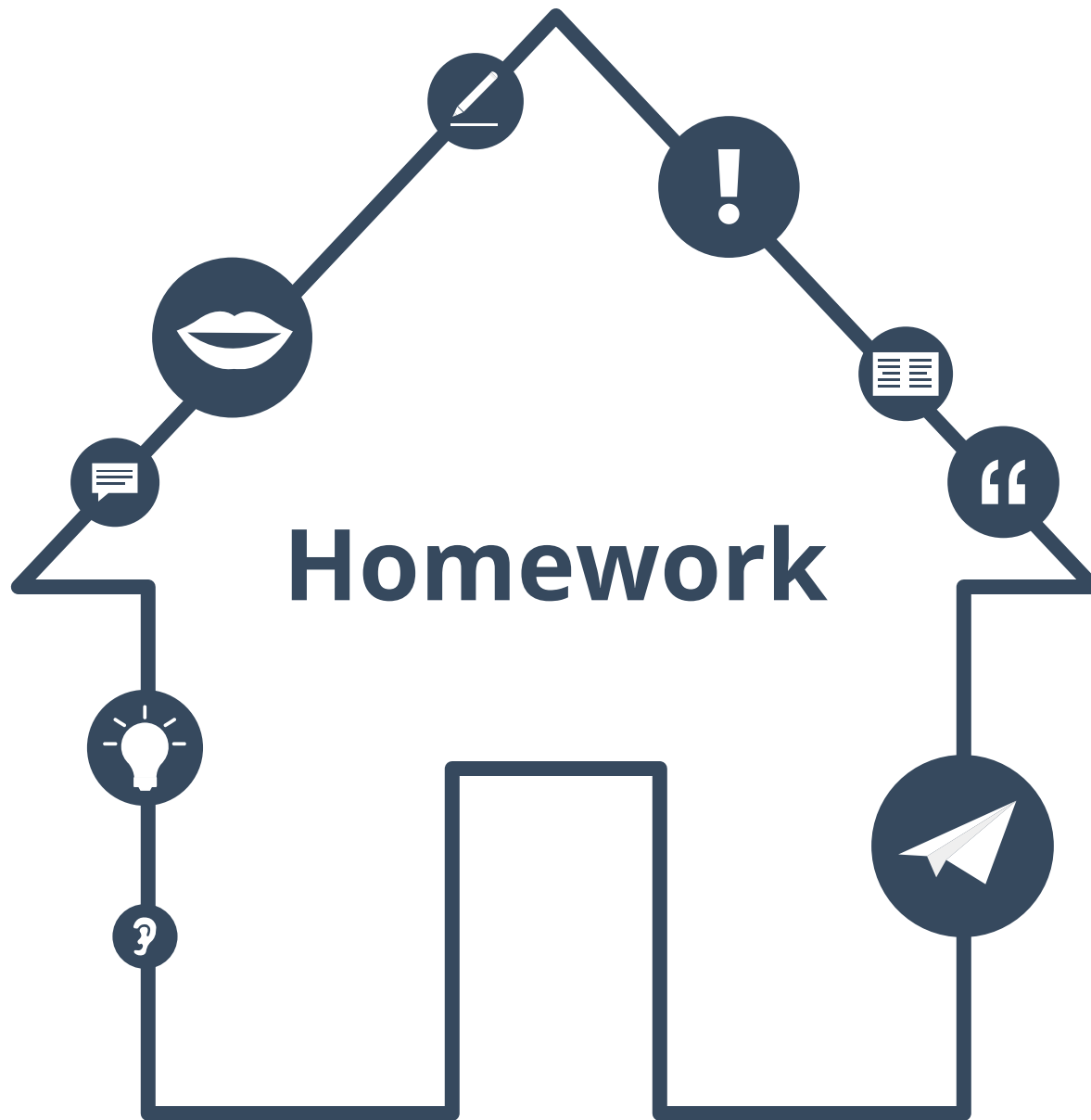


Answer key

Slide 11:
1d, 2b, 3c, 4a

Slide 14:
Moment, history, destruction, era, outsiders, generation, gulf, bonds

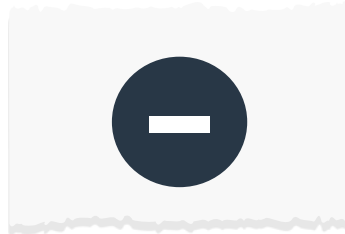
Slide 15:
Shape, Europe, smaller, advances, fighting.





Reflect and evaluate

How did you find today's lesson: what was easy and what was difficult?

A vertical sheet of white paper with a spiral binding on the left side and horizontal lines for writing, intended for taking notes during the reflection process.



Vocabulary review

Use this slide to create flashcards for any new words found in this lesson.

