

★ Reteaching Activity 23

Postwar America, 1945–1960

The economic boom that followed World War II, funded in part by the GI Bill, created a large middle-class population. This newly prosperous group purchased luxury goods, including televisions. The rapid rise of television changed mass media and contributed to the emergence of a youth culture. Unfortunately, many millions remained trapped in poverty.

DIRECTIONS: The chart below lists statements about life in America in the 1950s. Complete the chart by supplying information to support each statement.



Life in America in the 1950s

Statement	Supporting Information
1. During the 1950s, life was easier and more prosperous than ever before for many Americans.	
2. Automation greatly impacted both production and the labor force on farms and in factories and industries.	
3. Suburbs expanded rapidly, hurting urban centers.	
4. Affluence and pursuing the “American Dream” started changing the roles of women.	
5. The rise in the popularity of television dramatically changed American’s leisure time.	
6. The general prosperity of the 1950s did not extend to all Americans.	

7. Critical Thinking Describe how music in the postwar era both reflected and reinforced the generation gap that developed between parents and children.