

The Lost Generation and the Last Generation

Introduction

Lost Generation, a group of American writers who came of age during World War I and established their literary reputations in the 1920s. The term is also used more generally to refer to the post-World War I generation.

The generation was “lost” in the sense that its inherited values were no longer relevant in the postwar world and because of its spiritual alienation from a United States that, basking under Pres. Warren G. Harding’s “back to normalcy” policy, seemed to its members to be hopelessly provincial, materialistic, and emotionally barren. The term embraces Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, John Dos Passos, E.E. Cummings, Archibald MacLeish, Hart Crane, and many other writers who made Paris the centre of their literary activities in the 1920s. They were never a literary school.

Gertrude Stein is credited for the term Lost Generation, though Hemingway made it widely known. According to Hemingway’s *A Moveable Feast* (1964), she had heard it used by a garage owner in France, who dismissively referred to the younger generation as a “génération perdue.” In conversation with Hemingway, she turned that label on him and declared, “You are all a lost generation.” He used her remark as an epigraph to *The Sun Also Rises* (1926), a novel that captures the attitudes of a hard-drinking, fast-living set of disillusioned young expatriates in postwar Paris.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Lost-Generation>

Part 1 – The Lost Generation

Lesson Plan

We will project the file “*Lost Generation Unit*” in the class.

- * **Page 1.** read with students the information provided. We can complete it with some more facts or details if we want or if we are asked. We may wish to comment more widely on the situation in that moment.

Then students will search for the information they need on the internet and do the activities in the green box. We will need to create a **Class Blog** if we don’t have one.

- * **Page 2:** get a student to read the information shown in the top boxes and contribute with some additional information.

Get students to do the activities in the green box by searching for information on the Internet. This activity could be done for homework. In the next class and in order to go through the information they have gathered and correct it, you can go to this **Quizlet**: https://quizlet.com/_a06a7d?x=1qqt&i=2xu09w

- * **Page 3:** Here we come to the **Project**. We are going to organize a virtual meeting with some of the artists and thinkers that belonged to the so-called *Lost Generation* or lived around those times. We have focused on writers, painters and philosophers. This meeting will take place on one of the virtual meeting platforms such as *Skype*, *Microsoft Teams*, *Zoom Meeting* or any other. We will organize it so that it happens in an appropriate moment.

Students will have to:

Step 1. Select a character from the list to adopt their personality. To do that, they will have to search for the information related to that artist and be prepared to answer the other guests' questions.

Step 2. Then they will choose another artist and prepare three questions to ask them about their life, personality and works to ask them during the meeting. Students will post these questions on the class **Padlet** we will create for this purpose. There you can check and correct the students attempts. Besides, the students will have access to their peers' questions and be prepared to answer them. They will keep a record of the answers given to their questions.

Step 3. Next, students will need to create a Curriculum Vitae of their chosen character.

For that, they can use any of the different platforms and websites available on the internet or follow the model Europass. There is an example in **Worksheet 1** of a CV created with *Resume Now* for the personality of Georgia O'Keeffe that can be used to illustrate what we expect from them.

This CV supposedly will be sent to a wealthy patron who is willing to bestow their support on artists of the time.

Step 4. The last step will be to tell students they are going to create a WhatsApp chat group to keep in touch using the personality of the figure they chose in Step 1. There they will be able to comment on the different aspects they have learnt about the other figures' lives and works and even plan encounters or invite each other to parties or events. Students will invent a conversation between two or more of the components of the group trying to organise some kind of event like meetings in the cafés in Montparnasse or at the bookshop "Shakespeare and Company" or simply asking how they feel about a certain social issue happening in Paris in that moment (the Thiers Wall being demolished, the elections in

October and November 1919, the oncoming Olympic games, or a premier at the Paris opera).

The students will use a template for a [WhatsApp conversation](#) from the Internet or even draw it to pretend it is one, or just write in the form of a common dialogue.

Part 2: The Last Generations – Generation Z

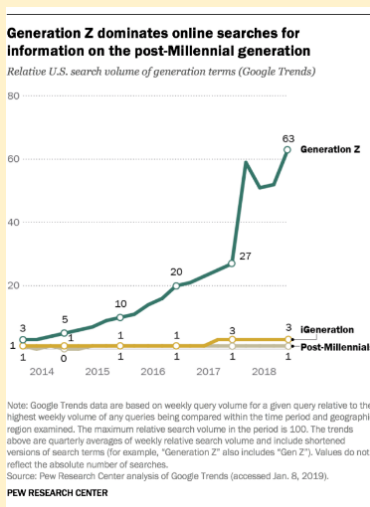
Generations are defined as social groups of people born within a defined time period that share similar cultural traits, values, and preferences. The contemporary naming of generations dates back to poet Gertrude Stein, who wrote of those who came of age during World War I, “You are all a lost generation.” Nearly a century later, names, labels and character studies for the generations have multiplied.

Now, using the file “*The Last Generations*”, we will come to present times to go into what the latest generations have been called. Demographic groups show different attitudes and have different experiences during their life cycle and their aging process. These experiences, such as world events and technological, economic and social shifts will shape their views of the world.

Check how much students know about this.

By the numbers these are the cutoff years for each generation:

- **Baby Boomers:** born 1946 to 1964. ...
- **Generation Jones:** born 1955 to 1965. ...
- **Generation X:** born 1965 to 1980. ...
- **Xennials:** born 1977 to 1983. ...
- **Millennials:** born 1981 to 1996. ...
- **Generation Z:** born 1997 or after. ...
- **Generation Alpha:** born 2010 or after.



We will focus on *Generation Z* or, commonly known as *Gen Z*, is the group where our students would find a place if they were to have one.

The proposed activities consist of three video activities which put forward different views and a set of activities that should interest our students and where they will probably have their say.