

11005

ERAS 7–10 (EMERGENCE OF MODERN AMERICA–PRESENT)

THEMES: AMERICAN IDENTITY, CULTURE AND  
DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES

## THE RISE AND DECLINE OF THE TEENAGER

### GUIDING QUESTIONS

How do our assumptions about  
the past impact our understanding of today?

How has the understanding of the term ‘teenager’  
changed through the 20th century?



Recreation instructor Miss Eleanor Kenny  
teaching her teenage group how to dance.  
The pictures on the wall are the girls  
favorite screen stars (1953).

### TEACHER-TO-TEACHER

This article could work well as an introduction to historical thinking and the processes historians and other social scientists use when pursuing the answer to a larger historical/sociological question. While topically it is a 20th century subject, the practices and rationale shown in the study of youth/teenagers can be applied to other areas of historical interest. I might use it at the beginning of the school year to spark interest in the techniques of history as well as history itself. Alternatively, this Collection has a place in studying modern American Culture and the changes in expectations in terms of education and jobs. It could also be used to build context when studying *The Catcher in the Rye* or any YAL with a focus on teenagers.

**Literature Connection:** *The Catcher in the Rye* by JD Salinger, *This Boy's Life* by Tobias Wolff, *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky

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- 🌿 **The Rise and Decline of the Teenager**  
by Thomas Hine ARTICLE
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- 🌿 **No Jobs Without College as Employers  
Treat Degree as a Minimum** DOCUMENT

**fourscore**  
*make history*

### RECOMMENDED INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

- Task 20**  
Save the Last Word
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Acrostic Poem
- Task 22**  
Structured Academic Controversy
- Task 23**  
Identifying Claim/Evidence
- Task 24**  
QFT (Question Formulation Technique)
- Task 25**  
Document Analysis/Sourcing