

The Roaring Twenties**Social Studies Skills****Analysis****Comparing Graphs****LEARN THE SKILL**

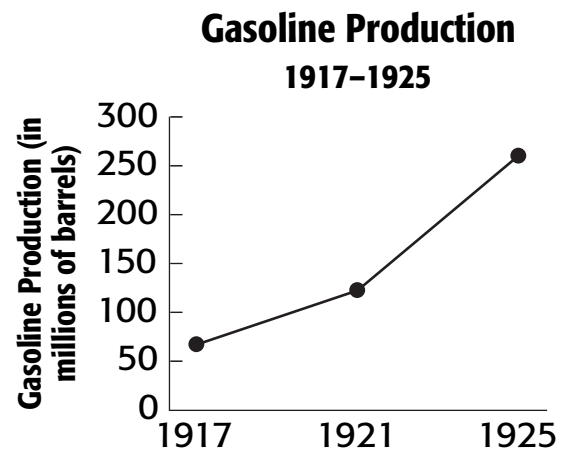
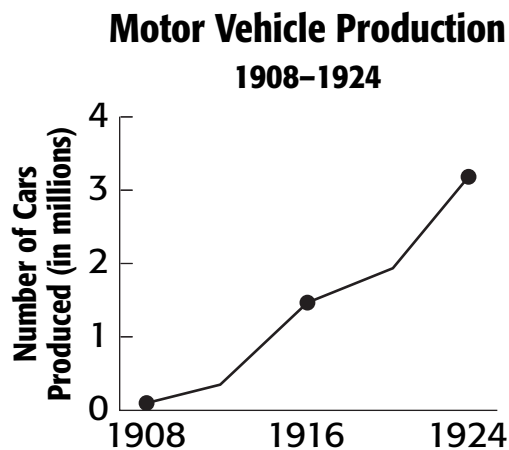
Graphs display numeric information in the form of a picture. They can present a large amount of detailed information at a glance. Graphs are especially good at showing changes over time. We can compare two or more graphs to discover relationships that might not be clear. For instance, a graph of daily winter temperatures might be compared to a graph of daily heating fuel purchases. We could easily see that weather has a direct influence on the use of heating fuel.

Use basic skills to analyze graphs. Look for the subject, purpose, and type of graph. What are its parts and categories? Look at the data to determine what changes can be seen. What patterns are obvious to you? When comparing graphs, try to spot relationships and causes. If figures on one graph were to change, would the other graph change as well?

PRACTICE AND APPLY THE SKILL

Compare the graphs below and answer these questions. Use what you know about history to help with question 3.

1. What data do the graphs display?
2. What relationship between motor vehicle production and gasoline production is evident from the graphs?
3. Why might gasoline production increase more rapidly than motor vehicle production?



Source: National Bureau of Economic Research