



Instructions:

In your group, using Web and print resources, research The Ziegfeld Follies. Your research should address the following issues:

- What is the relationship of the Ziegfeld Follies to early Vaudeville? Compare and contrast style of presentation, stage sets, musical scores, and choreography. What sustains the new aspects that have been added? Are there any remnants of the minstrel show, operas or operettas, or the musical farce in Ziegfeld productions?
- How did the Ziegfeld Follies reflect changes in American life in the first two decades of the 20th century?
- What forces contributed to such change? Consider, for instance, the impact of Freudian theory as a contributing factor to the changing image of woman.
- What are some of the specific ways the Ziegfeld Follies contributed to the patriotic build-up of World War I?
- What is the implication of the terms “show girls” and “costume board”?
- (Optional) Draw a sketch of a “Ziegfeld Girl” and/or a Ziegfeld set. The drawing will be presented to the class.
- Share some background information on Florenz Ziegfeld, and some of the Ziegfeld stars, such as Fanny Brice, Anna Held, Leon Erol, Al Jolson, and Marilyn Miller. Had any of these stars been in vaudeville?
- Compare the Ziegfeld performance format and staging techniques to present day performances such as that of Madonna, Britney Spears, etc. Are there any common denominators?