Worksheet #1
America Emerges

How was American art perceived during the 1930s and 1940s? What were American artists striving to achieve? In general, what kind of works were they producing?

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What events and circumstances triggered a shift in power in the art world from Europe to America during the 1940s?

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Why is Jackson Pollock considered such an important figure to American modernism? How did he become so famous? Do you feel the acclaim given to him is justified?

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Discuss some of Jackson Pollock's influences. What artists inspired him? How are these influences expressed in his works?

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What is so innovative about Pollock's drip paintings? In what ways does he break with tradition and create something new? In your opinion, how does he “bust our idea of a picture all to hell?”

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What role did Lee Krasner play in Pollock's fame and success? Why has Krasner's work traditionally been overshadowed or plain forgotten by modern art historians? Do you feel Pollock would have achieved what he did, had he not had the support of Krasner?

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