



## Scopes Trial (11.3.2)

### **Background:**

In the 1920's conflict between Americans who wanted to return to "simpler" times and those who wanted to embrace what the future had to offer grew more and more tense. These tensions mirrored the growing differences between rural and urban parts of the nation. The nation became fixated on this when a biology teacher in Tennessee violated the state's law against teaching Darwin's theory of evolution and was subsequently arrested and put on trial. The trial, known as the Scopes Trial (or Monkey Trial) became a nation obsession.

### **Prompt:**

Why did people care about the Butler Act?

### **Task:**

In a well-thought out essay:

- Write a thesis in response to the prompt.
- Explain what evidence in the documents led you to your conclusion about the Butler Act.
- Be certain to cite at least four pieces of evidence from the documents that support your thesis.