

# BONNIE & CLYDE

LEARNING RESOURCE PACK

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## SECTION ONE: THE PRODUCTION

**Bonnie & Clyde** The Musical is the brain child of Ivan Menchell (Book Writer), Don Black (Lyricist), and Frank Wildhorn (Composer). Together, they pulled from the pages of history to create a heart-racing show that shares the true crime story of the infamous duo.

Use this pack to work with your students and uncover information you may not have known before about a perilous time in U.S History. There are many overlapping cross-curricular links which can be used in various departments including History, English, Geography, Drama and Music.

For additional resources, please email the production Education Liaison:  
Alex Kais at [alex.kais@adamaents.com](mailto:alex.kais@adamaents.com)

# HISTORICAL TIMELINE - PUTTING THE PRODUCTION INTO CONTEXT



In the early 1900's, against the backdrop of South America's shifting landscapes, the state of Texas pulsed with the rhythm of rapid development and urbanization. In the humble town of Telico, **1909** marked the birth of Clyde Barrow, the sixth among eight siblings born to destitute tenant farmer parents.

A year later, in Rowena, Bonnie Parker entered the world as the second of three children, surrounded by the comfort of a stable life until her father's unexpected demise thrust her family into the harsh economic realities of West Dallas.

By **1914**, Clyde's family were forced to abandon tenant farming and sought new horizons in West Dallas where his father opened a gas station. Despite the family's efforts to rise above their circumstances, Clyde's dream of escaping the drudgery led him to enlist in the U.S Navy in **1926**, only to face rejection on medical grounds.

Meanwhile, Bonnie's life took an unexpected turn as well. In **1926**, at the tender age of 15, she abandoned her high school education to marry Roy Thornton. Their union quickly disintegrated, and Roy found himself behind bars in 1929, charged with robbery. Bonnie and Roy remained legally married, but their paths never crossed again.

As the years unfolded, Clyde had two significant relationships but never married.

His encounters with the law begin in **1929**, when he was arrested for auto theft. Just three weeks later he was arrested again with his brother Buck for possession of stolen turkeys.

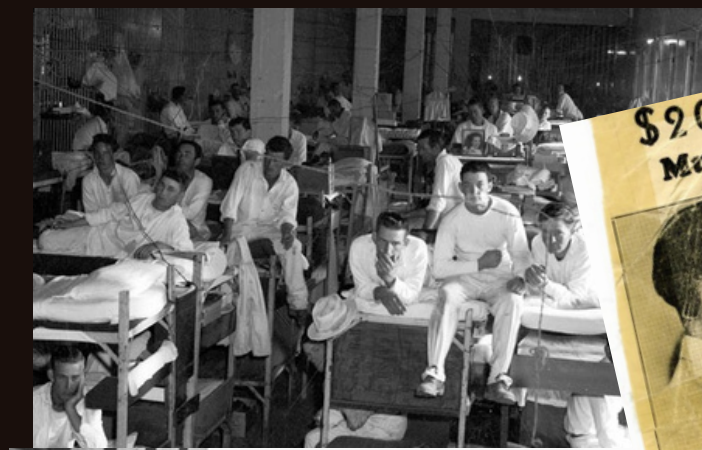
In the same year, Bonnie had been working as a waitress, only to face unemployment as the spectre of The Great Depression cast its shadow across the United States. A period of economic downturn, unseen since the Civil War, America was thrust into unprecedented hardship and adversity.

In the tumultuous year of **1930**, the infamous duo met for the first time at a friend's house party.

Shortly after, Clyde found himself incarcerated. Bonnie, undeterred, would visit regularly and even orchestrated a daring escape attempt by smuggling a gun into prison, securing his freedom.

Unfortunately, Clyde's liberation was short-lived, and he was transferred to the brutal Eastham Prison Farm.

# HISTORICAL TIMELINE - PUTTING THE PRODUCTION INTO CONTEXT



**\$200 REWARD**  
**Murder - Robbery**

Age: 27 to 28 years  
Height: 5 ft. 6 or 7 in.  
Build: Small  
Complexion: medium  
Hair: dark brown  
Eye: Brown  
Characteristics: right jaw appears to be broken  
Marks and Scars: none  
Points of interest: heart-shaped scar on forehead and nose

CLYDE CHAMPION BARROW  
WANTED in Sherman for the brutal murder of Howard Hall, grocery clerk of S. R. Little's store at 6:30 p. m., October 11, 1932.  
This man has been identified in three killings in recent months. He is wanted for murder and robbery: Atoka, Oklahoma, for killing a deputy sheriff; at Dallas, Texas, for killing a deputy sheriff; and at Lufkin, Texas, for killing a deputy sheriff. He is a thoroughly dangerous man and is said to stay at tourist camps. Was traveling in an old model sedan, dark color. He may be accompanied by Frank Albert Causey, 21 or 22, 5-6 1/2 feet tall, blond hair, light complexion. FPC 12-4 OIM 18, who has been identified with the killing.  
All officers in the Southwest should be on the lookout for this man. See District Attorney Joe Cox and S. R. Little offer \$200 reward for the arrest of Howard Hall, if arrested before January 1, 1933. Please communicate with:  
**FRANK BEECE, Sheriff, or H. G. THOMAS, Sheriff**  
Sherman, Texas, October 11th, 1932

A newsboy once said to his buddy,  
"I wished old Clyde would get jumped  
in this awful hard times,  
we might make a few dimes,  
if 5 or 6 laws got bumped".

The police haven't got the report yet,  
Clyde sent a wireless today,  
saying "we have a peace flag of white,  
we stretch out at night,  
we have joined the N. R. A".

They don't think they are too tough or desperate,  
they know the law always wins,  
they have been shot at before,  
but they do not ignore,  
that death was the wages of sin.

From heartbreaks some people have suffered,  
from weariness some people have died,  
but take it all in all,  
our troubles are small,  
till we get like Bonnie and Clyde.

Some day they will go down together  
and they will bury them side by side,  
to a few it means grief,  
to the law it is relief,  
but it is death to Bonnie and Clyde.

End.



PRICE TWO CENTS

FRIDAY, MAY 28, 1934

**CLYDE BARROW, TEXAS  
KILLER, AND SWEETHEART  
ARE SLAIN BY POSSE**



Enduring the harsh conditions, Clyde's life takes a dark turn as he is assaulted by inmate Ed Crowder, who he eventually murdered. A fellow inmate, serving a life sentence, shouldered the blame in order to keep Clyde in the clear. In a desperate bid for release, Clyde resorted to self-mutilation, severing two of his toes.

Clyde's parole finally came in **1932**, thanks to his mother's relentless efforts. The Barrow Gang, as Bonnie, Clyde, Buck and Blanche (Clyde's brother and sister-in-law) became known, then unleashed a spree of bank robberies, grocery store heists, and ruthless acts of violence. Surprisingly, they still managed to maintain regular visits to their families during this time.

Bonnie's imprisonment after a failed burglary didn't dampen her spirit; instead, she turned to writing poetry behind bars.

Upon her release, the crime spree resumed. However, a car crash in **1933** left Bonnie severely injured, her bones scorched by burns down to the bone that would leave her with a permanent limp. The gang's desperate search for medical supplies ignited a shootout with the law, resulting in the fatal wounding of Buck and the blinding of his wife, Blanche, who later served a six-year prison sentence.

The gripping tale of Bonnie and Clyde reached its tragic climax in **1934**. Ambushed by a six-man group led by former Texas Ranger Captain Frank Hamer, the notorious duo met their end in a barrage of over 130 steel-jacketed bullets just outside Louisiana.

Despite their wishes, they were laid to rest separately,

as Bonnie once wrote:

*Some day they'll go down together,  
They'll bury them side by side.  
To few, it'll be grief,  
To the law, a relief,  
But it's death for Bonnie and Clyde*

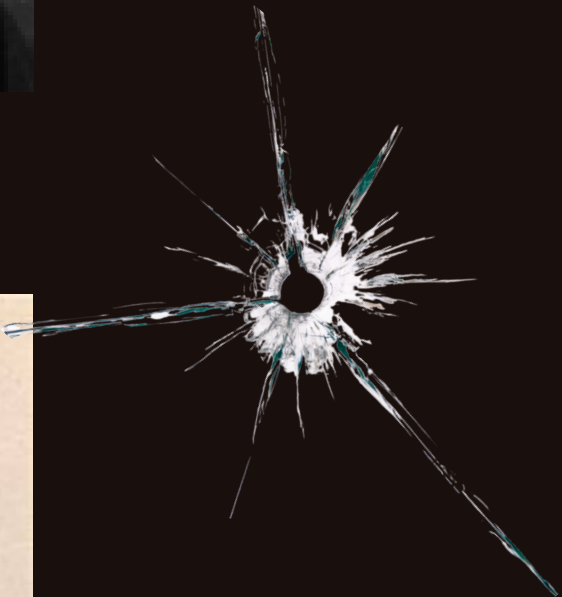
**HISTORICAL FIGURES - RE-IMAGINED FOR THE PRODUCTION**



**BONNIE PARKER**



**BLANCHE BARROW**



**CLYDE BARROW**



**BUCK BARROW**

## SECTION TWO - THE MUSIC



Open Spotify, click on the camera icon on the top right hand corner and scan the sound waves on the left to listen to the Original West End Cast album.

Activity ideas:

- USE THE MUSIC IN YOUR LESSONS, ASK STUDENTS TO PICK OUT THE INSTRUMENTS AND MUSICAL INFLUENCES
- COMPOSE A SONG IN THE STYLE OF BONNIE & CLYDE THE MUSICAL
- LEARN AND PERFORM A SONG FROM THE SHOW

# SECTION THREE - ACTIVITIES & RESOURCES

*Please use the following activities with your students as they cover a wide range of subjects including Geography, History, English and Drama.*

Here's what we know:

Clyde Barrow has been recently paroled from Eastham Prison Farm, located between Dallas, Texas and Houston, Texas.

He's with his partner, Bonnie Parker. We're betting they'll be putting some type of group together. We've already narrowed our list down to Barrow's brother, Marvin "Buck" Barrow, and his wife, Blanche Barrow. But we need your help to figure out two other possible members of this new gang.

**Some locals have seen Bonnie and Clyde hanging around with two unidentified people. From what we've gathered, here's what we can give you to help aid your search:**

Person 1 appears to have dark coloured hair. They're average height, anywhere from 5'5" to 5'7". They appear young, maybe late teens or early twenties.

Person 2 was shorter than Person 1, but looked to be a few years older. One person told us that Barrow 'talked to them like they were old buddies, and mentioned Clyde's sister.'

**Look at THE list of possible persons. Who do you think might be the new members of the Barrow Gang?**



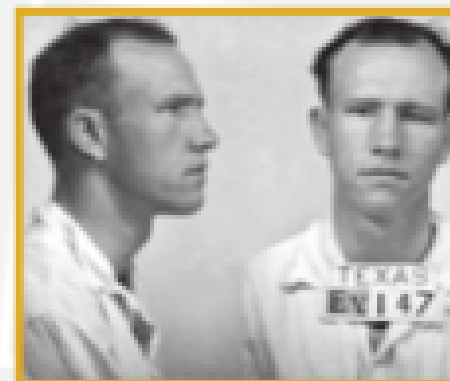
W.D. JONES

Born 1916 (currently around 16)  
Dark brown hair, light eyes, 5'6"  
Known for stealing license plates  
Known as 'Jack Sherman'  
Last known location : Texas



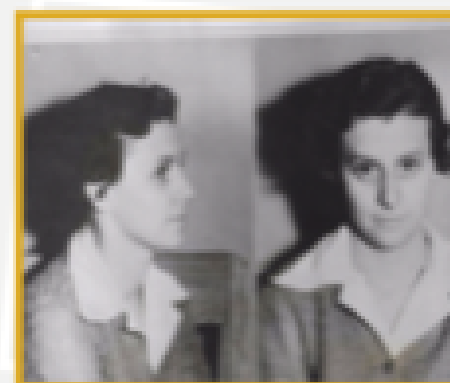
CHARLES ORMSTON

Born 1906 (currently around 26)  
Light brown hair, blue eyes, 5'4"  
Known for being a longer growing u  
Last known location : Oklahoma



RAYMOND HAMILTON

Born 1914 (currently around 18)  
Light brown hair, dark eyes, 5'3"  
Grew up near the Barrow's neighbourhood  
Last known location: Texas



HELEN GILLIS

Born in 1908 (currently around 24)  
Dark hari, dark eyes, 5'3"  
May have hung around with Barrow's sister and Bonnie Parker  
Last known location: Oklahoma



JOHN GALLAGER

Born in 1901 (currently around 31)  
Dark hair, hazel eyes, 5'7"  
Missing left eye  
Known for breaking into houses  
Last known location : Texas



# SECTION THREE - ACTIVITIES & RESOURCES

The FBI has intercepted a note heading to Bonnie's mother with a clue as to the Barrow Gang's next hiding spot. The FBI has narrowed down the possible location to these five potential states. Based on the clues, where do you think the Barrow Gang hideout is located?

Dear Ma,

The lone star isn't safe.

Chasing "the big muddy" to a safe place to hide. We have been seeing lots of abandoned farms off the Midwest, and so many people affected by the recession leaving the state. Maybe we will head West where the weather is warmer.

Clyde thinks the car may not make it so we will have to find some options quick. If you must reach us we are somewhere isolated in the northern cob. Look to the eye of the hawk.

Signed B



IOWA

Iowa borders the Mississippi and Colorado Rivers  
Its landscape is mainly rolling plains and cornfields  
Home of Dexter Field Amusement Park, once the largest theme park in Iowa but since abandoned by the recession



MICHIGAN

Known as the Wolverine state  
Home of the Ford Motor Company (an excellent place to get a new getaway vehicle)  
Close border to Canada



KANSAS

Home of the Tallgrass Prairie  
Earned the nickname of "Tornado Alley" due to how many tornadoes the state gets  
Sunflower Army Ammunition site, the largest production site of bullets by the U.S government (a great place to restock on ammunition)



NEW MEXICO

Known for its White Sand Desert  
Nicknamed the Land of Enchantment  
The state is known for multiple caves and caravans hidden throughout the Guadalupe Mountains



OHIO

Known by any as the "Mother of Presidents"  
Borders Lake Erie  
Throughout the river valley are many Buckeye Trees, giving the state its nickname

**SPECIAL THANKS TO:  
RONALD REAGEN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY & MUSEUM**

**BONNIE  
& CLYDE**

**CREATED BY : ALEX KAIS & CHARLOTTE BARLOW**