Scopes: The Battle Over America's Soul **Name: _____ Date: _____**

1. Why do you think evolution became such a hot button issue in the 1920s? What else what going on during this period that explains the increased attention given to evolution?

2. What was the Butler Act and what role did it play in the Scopes trial? Who supported its passage and why?

3. At the time of the Scopes trial, Americans were divided about the issue of teaching Darwin's theories. Explain these diverse views.

4. The Scopes trial was deemed the "Trial of the Century." Why? How did most Americans learn about and follow the trial? Do you think it would have similar appeal today?

5. Describe the diverse views between the two lawyers on the case:
    a. Clarence Darrow:

    b. William Jennings Bryan:

6. What do you think the motivations of Scopes and the ACLU were in pressing the issue of evolution? What do you think the motivations of William Jennings Bryan were in arguing for the prosecution?

7. In 1957, with the launching of the Russian spacecraft Sputnik, interest in Darwin's theory of evolution gained popularity. Why?

8. The Scopes Trial was the first time court had been used to decide social issues. Do you think that court is the appropriate place to make such decisions? Why or why not?