

# The Roaring Twenties



# Major Trends

- Music: Jazz
- Movies: first “talking picture,” *The Jazz Singer*, made in 1927
- Fashion: shorter hair and dresses for women, baggy pants for men
- Drinking, smoking, dating, dancing!

# The “New Woman”



- The “flapper” came to symbolize the new kind of woman in the 1920s
- Short, bobbed hair, shorter skirts and dresses, bare legs (!), and make up were flapper trademarks

# More “New Woman”



- Movie stars like Clara Bow portrayed the “new woman” in a new light: drinking, smoking, flirting, and going to parties
- Many women were against the “flapper” image, saying it degraded women in a time right after they got the right to vote

# Music

- Jazz, a new form of music based on old slave songs, was the most popular form of music
- Black musicians, such as Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong, as well as white artists like George and Ira Gershwin, dominated the music scene



# Harlem Renaissance

- Explosion of black culture in 1920s NY
- Langston Hughes (poet), Jelly Roll Morton (musician), Josephine Baker (actress)
- Marcus Garvey and the Universal Negro Improvement Association: “back to Africa” movement



# The “Lost Generation” of Writers

- F. Scott Fitzgerald:  
“The Great Gatsby”
- Ernest Hemmingway:  
“The Sun Also Rises”
- Sinclair Lewis:  
“Babbitt”
- Embrace the “new”  
American Way; reject  
marriage,  
materialism, religion,  
etc.





# Teenage Trends

- 1920's teens and youth adopted the new fashions and attitudes, and developed their own forms of entertainment, like:
  - Dance marathons
  - flagpole sitting
  - going to baseball games or the movies





# Backlash to the new culture

- “Traditionalists” thought America’s youth was out of control, and believed society was being ruined by a lack of morals
- Two major ideas pushed by traditionalists:
  - Prohibition: created in 1919, added the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution. Banned the sale, possession, importing, exporting, or delivery of alcohol (but NOT the purchase or use of it)
  - Religious fundamentalism: wanted a revival of Christian values; did not want evolution taught in schools, believed the Bible should be taught. The Scopes Trial (1925) made it illegal to teach evolution in schools.