

# **Roaring 20's Quick Notes**

- I. Technology**
- II. Pastimes**
- III. Prohibition**
- IV. Lives of Women**
- V. Great Migration**
- VI. Harlem Renaissance**

## **I. Technology**

**Electrification:** Originally led to industrial change during the Progressive Movement, but during the 20's, electricity had begun to reach homes across America.

Electricity brought about many changes like:

1. Labor saving products-like washing machines, stoves and water pumps
2. Electric lighting
3. Entertainment (radio)
4. Easier Communication (telephones)

**Guglielmo Marconi:** The “Father of Radio”. Developed early models of wireless signals.

**David Sarnoff:** Leader in “Broadcast” industry. Early president of RCA-the largest record and phonograph company. He would later move on to the Television industry in the 1950s.

**Henry Ford:** Made cars affordable because of the *assembly line*. More cars could be built in a short amount of time.

**Automobile Industry:** Created many jobs for millions of Americans.

1. Building Cars
2. Building Roads
3. OIL!

The increase in the automobile industry led to the growth of **SUBURBS**.

**Wright Brothers:** First people to fly, took place at Kittyhawk, NC in 1903.

**Charles Lindbergh:** First to fly non-stop over Atlantic Ocean(New York City to Paris)...lasted 33 hours!

## **II. Pastimes**

1. **Movies**: Silent movies began in 1903. The first “speakie” or “talkie” (movies with sound) appeared in 1927
2. **Music**: American composers included George Gershwin and Aaron Copland.
3. **“JAZZ”**: Began in New Orleans & spread across America.

Famous African American Jazz Musicians included:

1. Duke Ellington – Jazz band director and musician
  2. Louis Armstrong – Trumpet player
  3. Bessie Smith – blues singer
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4. **Baseball**: the “National Pastime”.  
Babe Ruth: Most famous baseball player during the 1920s

5. **Writing**:

Famous writers included:

1. F. Scott Fitzgerald: Wrote about the “Jazz Age” of the 1920’s. *The Great Gatsby*
2. John Steinbeck: Wrote about migrant workers, famous for *The Grapes of Wrath*.

## **III. Prohibition**

**Amend**: to change for the better.

**Amendment**: a change in the law-for the better

**Constitution**: the LAWS of the United States of America

**Temperance**: To “limit” the consumption of alcohol.

**Prohibition**: To “prohibit” the selling, buying, making or drinking alcohol

**18<sup>th</sup> Amendment**: Passed in 1920. Prohibition.

**Bootlegger**: someone who distributed alcohol illegally during Prohibition

**Speakeasies**: Illegal Bars where people drank alcohol, danced and listened to Jazz.

**Al Capone**: Perhaps the most famous bootlegger during the 1920's in Chicago.

**21<sup>st</sup> Amendment**: "repealed" the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment...which now allowed alcohol.  
Prohibition was too hard to control.

#### **IV. Lives of Women:**

**How did lives of women change during the 1920's?**

1. VOTING! The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment allowed women to vote.
2. Electrification made housework easier. Women now had more FREE TIME.
3. Women began to find JOBS and work.
4. FASHION. Women cut their hair. Clothing revealed shoulders and legs.  
"Flappers"

#### **Famous women of the 20's:**

1. Georgia O'Keeffe –artist that painted pictures of the urban scenes and the Southwest
2. Babe Didrikson Zaharias – one of the best all-around female athletes of all time
3. Amelia Earhart – female pilot that disappeared during flight over Pacific Ocean
4. Bessie Smith – one of the best female jazz and blues singers of all time

#### **V. The Great Migration**

**Migrate**: to move

**Migration**: the act of moving

**“The Great Migration”**: The movement of people to **Northern and Mid-western cities**...primarily African Americans.

**When did the Great Migration take place?**

The Great Migration began during World War I and continued through the 1920's.

**Why did so many African Americans move to northern cities?**

1. There were more JOBS in the north!
2. Racism and violence in the south (KKK).

African Americans AND Immigrants also faced hatred in the north!

## **VI. The Harlem Renaissance**

***Renaissance***: a “rebirth”

***Harlem Renaissance***: a rebirth of black music, art, and literature in New York during the 20's & 30's. The artistic expression can be traced back to their African culture.

**Jacob Lawrence**: An African American artist who “chronicled” (painted) the Great Migration north.

**Langston Hughes**: An African American poet and writer who wrote about black experiences and culture

**Booker T. Washington**: Believed in EDUCATION for African Americans (Tuskegee Institute)

**W.E.B. Dubois**: Believed in immediate political, civil, and social rights for African Americans.

**NAACP**: National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Founded by Dubois.