

The Drowsy Chaperone

The 1920s at a Glance

The 1920's went by such names as the Jazz Age, the Roaring Twenties, the Age of Intolerance, and the Age of Wonderful Nonsense. Whatever you call it, the era embodied the beginning of modern America. Check out this fun timeline and see just some the events that define this incredible decade!

1920

- The average life expectancy of an American is 54 years old, a 5-year increase from 1901
- The first commercial radio broadcast airs
- The Harlem Renaissance begins
- Women are granted the right to vote

1921

- Albert Einstein comes to Columbia University to lecture about his theory of relativity
- The first Miss America Pageant is held in Atlantic City, New Jersey
- Edna White becomes the first recorded female trumpet player with her album *When Johnny Comes Marching Home*
- The U.S. Post Office issues stamps commemorating the tercentennial of the landing at Plymouth Rock

1922

- King Tut's tomb is found
- Alexander Graham Bell dies at age 75
- Louie Armstrong joins King Oliver's Creole Jazz Band, marking the beginning of The Jazz Age

1923

- President Harding dies of food poisoning while touring the west; Vice President Calvin Coolidge takes over as President
- The Charleston dance becomes popular, launching a partying mind-set that helped coin the phrase "the Roaring Twenties"
- *Time* magazine is founded

1924

- The first Olympic Winter Games are held in Chamonix, France
- J. Edgar Hoover is appointed head of the FBI
- Two and a half million radios are in American households; only 500 existed in 1920

1925

- *The New Yorker* magazine is first published

- Flapper dresses are in style

1926

- The National Broadcasting Company is launched
- A. A. Milne publishes *Winnie-the-Pooh*
- Houdini dies after taking a punch to the stomach

1927

- The Columbia Broadcasting System is launched
- Charles Lindbergh becomes the first solo pilot to fly across the Atlantic
- *The Jazz Singer*, starring Al Jolson, debuts as the first full-length talking movie
- Babe Ruth sets the record for home-run hits

1928

- Herbert Hoover is elected president
- Mickey Mouse debuts in *Plane Crazy*, the very first Walt Disney animated cartoon
- Amelia Earhart becomes the first woman to fly across the Atlantic
- Alexander Fleming discovers penicillin at St. Mary's Hospital in London, England

1929

- The first Academy Awards are held; *Wings* wins best picture
- The New York's Museum of Modern Art is founded
- The New York Stock Exchange crashes on October 29th and by December the NYSE's value is lowered by over \$26 billion; the Great Depression has begun