



Popular Culture 1920's

Due the new technology available allowing movies to have both sound and color the movie industry in Hollywood grew fast as did the number of Cinemas showing the films. In 1919 laws were passed for the Prohibition of consumption and even possession of alcohol making them illegal and due to these laws the 20's provided some of the most well known gangsters a means to create vast wealth by opening illegal bars called speak easiest to provide drinks for the people that required alcoholic beverages. Possibly the most well known of these was Al Capone

Also this period saw the growth of the Ku Klux Klan and the growth of the Vigilante groups who took the law into their own hands and lynched victims most often black without any trial.

The other great change in people's lives came from an invention and technology prior to the 20's but after World War I became a significant part of life providing news and entertainment to the masses in their homes , this was the birth of commercial radio for all.

Music

Jazz was the music of popular choice and some of the best known musicians were jazz musicians including Duke Ellington and Al Jolson. One other popular musician (Composer) was George Gershwin and many of his songs are still recorded and listened to today. a popular dance of the times was the Charleston



The 1920's

The 20's were a time of radical change caused by the many changes happening in technology with new advancements, discoveries, and inventions and is often known as the Roaring Twenties

Money and Inflation

To provide an estimate we have given a guide to the value of \$100 US Dollars for the first year in the decade to the equivalent in today's money

If you have \$100 Converted from 1920 to 2009 it would be equivalent to \$1023 in today's money

Food Prices From The 1920's -- Homes From The 1920's

These are some of the things you may have seen advertised Below and **how much food and groceries cost in the 20's**

Bacon 1 lb. 52¢ 1920

Bacon 1 lb. 47¢ 1925

Beef Rib Roast 1 lb 39¢ 1926 New York

Bread 1 lb. 12¢ 1920

Bread 1 lb. 9¢ 1925

Bread 1 lb. 10¢ 1925 New York

Bread 1 lb. 10¢ 1929 Chicago

Butter 1 lb. 70¢ 1920

Butter 1 lb. 55¢ 1925

Butter 1 lb. 56¢ 1929 Chicago

Butter 1 lb. 57¢ 1925 Los Angeles

Cabbage 1 lb. 2¢ 1920 WI

Carmel Wafers (1lb.) 36¢ 1924 WI

Cheese 1 lb. 38¢ 1926 New York

Chicken 1 lb. 39¢ 1925 New York



Chicken lb. 42¢ 1929 New York
Codfish 1 lb. 29¢ 1924 WI
Coffee 1 lb. 47¢ 1920
Coffee 1 lb. 52¢ 1925 Washington
Coffee 1 lb. 50¢ 1925
Coffee 1 lb. 45¢ 1929 New York
Cornmeal 1 lb. 7¢ 1925 New York
Cornmeal 1 lb. 6¢ 1929 Los Angeles
Eggs 1 Doz. 47¢ 1920 WI
Eggs 1 doz. 25¢ 1924 WI
Eggs 1 doz. 68¢ 1925
Eggs 1 doz. 55¢ 1925
Eggs 1 doz. 59¢ 1929 New York
Fancy Lake Trout 1 lb. 22¢ 1920 WI
Flour 5 lbs. 41¢ 1920
Flour 5 lbs. 31¢ 1925
Lemons 6 15¢ 1920 WI
Lettuce 3 Heads 25¢ 1924 WI
macaroni 3 lbs 25¢ 1924 WI
Milk ½ Gal. 33¢ 1920
Milk ½ Gal. 28¢ 1925
Navy Beans 1 lb. 10¢ 1926 New York
Norwegian Sardines in Olive Oil 15¢ 1924 WI
Oranges 6 25¢ 1920 WI
Oranges 1 Doz. 63¢ 1920
Oranges 1 Doz. 57¢ 1925
Peaches 1 lb. 17¢ 1924 WI



Pineapple Sunbeam 40¢ 1924 WI
Potatoes 10 lbs. 63¢ 1920
Potatoes 10 lbs. 36¢ 1925
Prunes 1 lb. 3¢ 1920 WI
Prunes 3 lbs. 25¢ 1924 WI
Pure Lard 5 lbs. \$1.20 1920 WI
Round Steak 1 lb. 40¢ 1920
Round Steak 1 lb. 36¢ 1925
Round Beef Steak 1 lb. 36¢ 1926 Chicago
Round Beef Steaks 1 lb. 43¢ 1925 New York
Round Beef Steaks 1 lb. 51¢ 1929 New York
Sugar 5 lbs. 97¢ 1920
Sugar 5 lbs. 35¢ 1925
Watermelon 1 lb. 2¢ 1920 WI

Cars

Possibly the most significant change during the 1920's was the mass production of the Car started by Henry Ford, he had manufactured and sold some 15 million Model-Ts by 1927

Cars And Car Prices From The 1920's

Some examples of car prices in the 1920's and how much it cost for a new car

Austin 20 Touring Car \$695 1920
Austin 20 Coupe \$850 1920
Austin 20 Landaulet \$875 1920
Buick Touring Car (six) Model D \$650.00 1921



Cadillac Touring Car \$3940 1921

Cadillac Victoria \$4540 1921 Wisconsin

Chevrolet Superior Roadster \$490.00 1924 Wisconsin

Chevrolet Various Vehicles (Roadsters, Touring Cars, Utility Coups, Sedans) From \$490 to \$795
1924 Michigan

Dort Six Five Passenger Touring Car \$1095 1924 Wisconsin

Ford Runabout \$265.00 (\$85.00 extra for starter and dismountable rims) 1924 Michigan

Packard Single 6 with 17 miles per gallon with Packard Quality \$2975 1920

Willys Overland with 6 Cylinders \$985 1925

Events

At the end of the 20's after a time of excesses in all areas the stock market crash of Black Thursday (**October 24th** 1929) caused the start of the The Great Depression

Fashions

During the 20's men's fashions became less stuffy and they tried to look more youthful but women's fashions changed much more drastically with women (flapper style of clothing) dressing in a way they felt comfortable with not to accentuate the feminine attributes but as a statement of who they were .

Fashion and clothing prices from the 1920's

What People Wore Back in 1920's

The 1920s-a "Cloche and Flapper" Decade, and More



BWTA - 90th Anniversary Celebration - Sept. 8, 2011

Two of the **fashions** that are often associated with the **1920s** are the cloche hat and the flapper dress. The cloche hat of the 1920s evolved from the wider-brimmed hats of the decade before, and continued to evolve up until the 1930s and beyond.

It is hard to describe the shape of the cloche hat in a few words, because of the fact that so many variations of it exist. However, the basic description of it is that it is a very snug-fit hat that was often worn tilted, covering the forehead, yet allowing room for vision. The hair was often cut short and styled flat to fit under these types of hats.

Cloches were often covered the ears as well, and even sometimes the ends of women's short haircuts of the time. Often the flapper and the cloche were worn together, especially during the latter half of the 1920s.

The **flapper** "dress" per se was actually more of a representation of a total style than just the actual dress. However, one distinction of this type of dress was that it was basically a straight and loose style of dress.

Throughout the 1920s decade the length of the flapper dress varied a little. In the early 1920s the length of dresses and skirts were about calf length, with some a little longer and some a bit shorter.

New York Fashion Frocks \$12.95 Sears Home Shopping Catalog 1927

From approximately the years 1926 to 1928 the hem lines of dresses were the shortest, and this is what most people remember when they talk of the **1920s flapper dress**. During this short period of time dress hem lines were up to the knees (approximately).

During part of this decade the waist line of dresses dropped to the hip to promote more of a "boyish" look. However, by the early 1930s the waist line of dresses rose back up to its normal waist line position.

Beyond the Cloche and Flapper

The 1920s decade was more than just the cloche and the flapper. In fact, this is the era during which more casual clothing was introduced to the public. For instance, women began to wear pants more often.

Flapper Winter Coat \$25.00 Sears Home Shopping Catalog 1927

Certain styles of women's shoes designed were unique to this decade as well. One of the most remarkable of this decade's shoe styles was the ankle strap button shoe. The T-bar shoe was also popular, along with shoe trimmings of sequins or similar materials.

Flapper Ladies Hat \$1.98 Sears Home Shopping Catalog 1927

The men of the 1920s era began to abandon formal wear as well. Full suits with long suit jackets were still worn for special events, but more often they began to wear the higher-waisted ones.

Men's Clothing Fashions From the 20s



BWTA - 90th Anniversary Celebration - Sept. 8, 2011

Men's suit Lapels were not very wide during the 1920s, which was a trend that was started during World War I (1914 to 1918). This is also the era in which men began to wear cuffed trousers.

Flannel also became increasingly popular, and so did two-toned white and tan or white and black shoes for casual wear. Some of the casual shoes that were worn by men were made with fringed tongues, and/or winged tips.

The black patented leather shoes were still worn for more formal dress. However, the lace-up styled shoe was becoming more and more popular for men.

Additionally, both men and boys often wore short knee pants (knickers) along with sweaters (i.e. Fair Isle slipovers) or casual shirts. Moreover, the shoes that boys wore usually were made of canvas.

One other fashion change that was significant of the 1920s is the fact that baby clothing were designed to be more practical. More comfortable outfits such as rompers and short dresses replaced the frilly laced dresses and other formal baby attire.

For older girls, dress was different as well. They usually were seen wearing items such as cotton frocks, cardigan sweaters, and canvas shoes or sandals.

Men's Clothing Suits (Pre-War) \$30.00 New York 1920

Men's Clothing Suits (Post War)\$50.00 New York 1920

Silk Lined Suit (Hart Shaffner & Marx) \$50 (Sale Price) New York 1920

Boy's and Girls' Ribbed Cotton Stockings 35¢ Wisconsin 1921

Girls Bob Evens Middy Blouses \$2.75 Wisconsin 1921

Boys Cotton Sweaters 95¢ Wisconsin 1921

Wool Sweaters or Coats \$1.98 Wisconsin 1921

Girls' Serge Dresses (Wood Peter Tom Dresses, Navy, Braid Trimmed) \$4.75 Wisconsin 1921

Zepher Yarn Sweaters \$5.98 Wisconsin 1921

Children's All Wool Sweaters \$4.98 Wisconsin 1921

Children's Black Sateen Bloomers 48¢ Wisconsin 1921

Ladies Wool Flannel Robes \$3.95 Nebraska 1934

Children's Union Suits 98¢ Wisconsin 1921

Childrn's Union Suits 1.25¢ Wisconsin 1921

Boy's Heavy Fleece Lined Underwear 98¢ Wisconsin 1921

Boys' Part Wool Ribbed Union Stuts \$1.98 Wisconsin 1921



Children's Vests and Pants 68¢ Wisconsin 1921

Children's Black Cat School Stockings (Heavy Ribbed Cotton) 25¢ Wisconsin 1921

Boys Wool Tweed Two-Pants Suits \$7.45 to \$7.95 Wisconsin 1921

Boys' Right-Posture Suits \$12.98 to \$16.50 Wisconsin 1921

Two-Piece Pant Navy Serge Pant Suits \$8.95 Wisconsin 1921

Tweed Knickers (for 8 to 18 yrs.) \$1.55 Wisconsin 1921

Boys' Blouses (Various materials and styles) 69 ¢ and 98 ¢ Wisconsin 1921

Boys' Knickers \$1.48, \$2.48, and \$2.98 Wisconsin 1921

Velvet and Serge Suits (Oliver Twist and Middy Styles) \$3.50, \$5.00, and \$5.95 Wisconsin 1921

Boys' Shoes Dark Brown, Double-Wear Soled English Walker, Various Sizes From \$2.65, Wisconsin 1921

Girls' Calf Skin Shoes (Various Sizes) From \$1.45, Wisconsin 1921

Children's Pantyhose (Fine Combed Egyptian Yarn) 25¢ Wisconsin 1921

Children's Hats \$2.95 Wisconsin 1921

Children's All Wool Sweaters \$1.98 Wisconsin 1921

Girls' Pure Worsted Zephyr Sweaters \$4.98 Wisconsin 1921

Children's Black Sateen Bloomers 48¢ Wisconsin 1921

Fall Coats (Ravena, Velour, Polyanna, and other fabrics \$29.75 Wisconsin 1921

Women's Tight Fleeced Union Suits 98¢ Wisconsin 1921

Women's Sateen Bloomers (Double Sewn) 98¢ Wisconsin 1921

Women's Wool Skirts \$7.50 to \$22.50 Wisconsin 1921

Men's Fall Suits \$27.50 to \$48.00 Wisconsin 1921

Men's Dress Shoes (Dark Brown Mahogany Calf Goodyear, Welt Sewed) \$4.85 Wisconsin 1921



Toys 1920s

Toys From The 1920s

History of Children's Games and Toys

The children of the world have been playing with some form of toy or another since the dawn of time. Kids are quite capable of sitting down and enjoying whatever adults put in front of them, their imaginations taking off with the tools at hand and making the most of anything, from a block of wood to a complex electronic toy.

The 20th century has seen the growth and advancement of just about everything we use on a daily basis. Motors, batteries, computers, and chemicals have made modern life possible and along the way toys have enjoyed something of their own evolution. If you trace the changes in children's toys you can more or less trace the overall changes in the technology of the day. They often lead the charge, bringing new features to the populace in an affordable package early.

The 1920s

The first twenty years of the 20th century saw the introduction of the **Teddy Bear**, the **Raggedy Ann Doll**, and **Crayola Crayons**, merely advancements of existing popular toys; dolls and drawing materials. Parents who had grown up in the waning years of the 19th century still handed down handmade dolls and wood toys to their children, so companies merely thought of exciting new ways to present that style of toy.

In the 1920s, it was more of the same. However, something else happened midway through that prosperous decade. Technology and Pop Culture exploded beyond the scope of anything anyone else had ever seen, making it possible for everyone in the country to listen to the same show on the radio or watch the same stars in film, or drive the same vehicle down the road.



The toys reflected the boom. **Die cast metal cars** and the first mass produced airplanes and cars for young boys were spreading rapidly, while the Raggedy Ann doll was introduced in **1918** and became immensely popular before being surpassed by Madame Alexander dolls in 1929.

That's not to forget the novelty toys that seem to stick around longer than anything else, such as the **Yo-yo**, also introduced in 1929, and mini-golf which first struck the tiny green lawns behind shopping structures in 1926.

Sporting Changes In The 20's

Baseball

The Yankees and Babe Ruth rule the world of Baseball setting records for the team and the Great Babe Ruth

Major League Teams Buy up Minor League Teams allowing them to get top players much cheaper than the open market.

Association Football (Soccer)

Soccer had been gaining in popularity since the mid 1800's but the 20's gave an even bigger boost with the Growth Of Radio In Britain making the top players into stars.

For More Sporting history, Origins, Events and Changes, Please Check Out Our New **Sports History** Section.

Overview of Modern Sporting History

- **Baseball**, from its origins in 1840s in northeastern United States to the institution of the National, and later American Leagues, making up what is today known as Major League Baseball. **Origins, Growth, Records and History of Baseball**



- **Basketball**, the brainchild of Dr. James Naismith, created in the 1890s, it developed as much through colleges as it did through professional teams and leagues, with the modern National Basketball Association emerging around 1950. **Birth, Growth, Records and History of Basketball**
- **American Football**, which existed in various forms mostly across the college ranks in the 1800s before Walter Camp, at Yale University, began to help establish rules that made the game appear much as it does today. Football's evolution primarily took place in college, as college football was far more popular than its professional counterpart until the late 1950s, when the National Football League became the dominant force in American football. **Origins, Growth, Records and History of American Football**
- **Ice Hockey**, whose history is traced to Canada as early as the 1810s, though scholars debate its origin. The modern sport emerged in the late 1800s in Montreal, with the National Hockey League forming in 1917. Hockey is another sport in which early development took place as much in college as it did in professional leagues. **The History, Teams, Players and Organisations for Ice Hockey**
- **Motor Racing**, whose origin is difficult to trace. Racing motorized vehicles actually began more with motorized bicycles or tricycles than cars, though not by many years. Car racing began to emerge at the very end of the 19th century, leading into the development of tracks built for car racing in the first decade of the 1900s, first in Britain in 1907, then later in the U.S., most famously with the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in 1909. There are an extremely wide variety of motor racing, between the more famous Formula One and NASCAR to rally cars, touring cars and sports cars.
- **Association Football, or Soccer**, widely considered the world's most popular sport, traces its modern roots back to the standardization of the rules of the sport in England in the mid-1800s, leading to the creation of the Football Association in London in 1863. The current governing body in international soccer is the Fédération Internationale de Football



Association, or FIFA, which was formed in 1904. **The History, Teams, Players and Organisations for the game of Soccer**

- **Tennis**, one of the oldest of the modern sports, goes back as far as the 1500s, though the true modern game of “lawn tennis” goes back to the 1870s. The game primarily grew out of England, including the first Wimbledon Championships in 1877. The International Lawn Tennis Federation, now known simply as the International Tennis Federation, the sport’s governing body, was founded in 1913, composed of 13 national tennis associations.
- **The Modern Olympics**, growing out of the ancient tradition, resurfaced under the direction of the International Olympic Committee in Athens in 1896. The Olympics have been held every four years since, missing only 1916, 1940 and 1944 due to world wars. The original Olympiad allowed only men to compete; women were added four years later, in Paris in 1900.
- **The Winter Olympics**, which initially developed alongside the Modern Summer Olympics, were first held in Chamonix, France, in 1924, the same year as the Paris Summer Games. The Winter Games were separated from the Summer Games for the first time in 1994, when the Winter Olympics were held in Lillehammer, Norway, followed two years later by the Summer Games in Atlanta, USA. The original games had 9 sports, while the most recent Winter Olympics in Vancouver had 15.
- **Golf**, whose origins are widely disputed, with various historians tracing it back to a variety of different stick and ball games throughout European history. However, most agree the modern game of golf originated in Scotland in the 15th century. Golf spread globally throughout the 19th century, though almost entirely in locations controlled by the British Empire. The Professional Golfers Association of America, today the governing body of golf via its 41 PGA sections worldwide and the world’s largest working sports organization, was formed in 1916. **Origins, Great Players part of our History of Golf**



- **Rugby football**, which is popularly believed to have been formed by William Web Ellis in 1823 at Rugby School in England, after he simply picked up the ball and ran with it. Scholars now say this is probably apocryphal, though the modern sport did likely form around the area at the same time. The Rugby Football Union, the sport's governing body, was formed in London in 1871.
- **Boxing**, whose history dates back to Ancient Greece, and became the modern sport we know today primarily in 1867, when the Marquess of Queensbury published a code of rules which still primarily govern the game today. The National Boxing Association, which later became the World Boxing Association, was formed in 1921. There are today 4 organizations recognized as governors of the sport: the WBA, the International Boxing Federation, the World Boxing Organization and the World Boxing Council.
- **Cricket**, another sport whose origins are murky at best, though the modern game began to emerge in the 1770s. The first test match, which is a cricket match played between two countries, was in 1877, played between Australia and England. The International Cricket Council, the governing body of the sport, was founded in 1909, then called the Imperial Cricket Council and consisting only of England, South Africa and Australia. The organization today consists of 10 full members.

Sports The History and Evolution

Overview Though for many sports today is just another part of their daily lives, it is easy to forget that just 120 years ago, many of the sports we take for granted did not yet exist, and those that did would be barely recognizable to the modern sports audience. The history of modern sports details an evolution, from games played primarily for entertainment and leisure to an industry rivaling any other in size and power.

Popular Culture Influence With that evolution came an increase in influence. Sports over the last hundred years has affected modern popular culture and has often reflected changing social attitudes and standards. Sports has also seen advances in techniques and achievements in records and levels that reflect the commitment by sportsman, sportswomen and training to be the best. Fashions



now often reflect sports clothing, partly because of the money injected into sports by fashion houses and partly because of our desire to emulate our heroes and heroines.

Politics Along with an increase in influence over popular culture has come an increase in political influence. This can include athletes using their fame to run for office, office-seekers using athletes to boost their candidacy, boycotts to boost causes – most famously the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa and most recently the immigration law passed in Arizona – and using sports as a way to reach certain demographics.

There is, however, a downside to the use of sports in politics. This ranges from terrorists using the sports to gain exposure for their cause – most famously at the Munich Olympics – to countries using sports as a way of trying to demonstrate that their specific ideology is better than another, notably in Soviet Russia.

College Scholarship Opportunities The growth of sports has also made possible the education of many young people who would otherwise never have that opportunity. Though today most of the noticeable college athletes often leave school early to enter the professional ranks of their sport, the vast majority of college athletes graduate and move on to a field other than their sport. For many of those students, sports made going to college possible, particularly through the use of college scholarships, which have increased in size and number as sports created bigger revenues for schools.

Integration We will examine how sports embraced (or at least shoe-horned) integration, looking at Willie O’Ree playing hockey for the Boston Bruins, Prentiss Gault, a football player at the University of Oklahoma, Kenny Washington, the first African-American to play in the NFL, the whole-scale, and early, integration by the NBA, soccer’s struggle to this day with racism, particularly in Europe, and, perhaps most famously, Jackie Robinson’s entrance into baseball.

Big Business It is also impossible to talk about modern sports without considering the heavy influence of business. Sports and business have become forever linked, even in college, which is supposedly played by “amateurs” and not “professionals,” despite the fact that the coaches and athletic directors make as much as their counterparts in the professional leagues. From sports on television to sponsorships to naming rights on stadiums, the history of the business of sports reveals that business tied itself to sports more and more in the latter half of the 20th century, really ramping up in the 1970s and onward.

Salaries As a part of the stream of business into sports, another change has been the influx of money, which many believe has become obscene and wrong. However, the fact of the matter is that when somebody is “The Best in the World”



at anything, ordinary people want to watch or see those people perform - whether they are actors, musicians or athletes. As much as people decry the high salaries and excess of sports, the spectators and consumers of sports make it possible. Past the issue of public perception, however, there lie more serious issues. Like all things in life, when big money and business are involved, the opportunities and temptations to cheat or do whatever it takes to get ahead increase. In sports, this often involves performance enhancing drugs or gambling.

Ticket Prices Additionally, the growth of big money and high salaries into the games has affected who can now afford to go to the events. Though this impact is most commonly associated with sports in the United States, this is not just an American phenomenon, but reflected in other countries and sports around the world. Soccer in the U.K is a great example. Many of the teams in the English Leagues were once supported by local blue-collar workers, with ticket prices costing about the same as one hour's worth of wages. Now, to get a good seat to watch a top British soccer team can easily cost more than 8 hours wages for a blue-collar worker. As sports have grown bigger and more profitable, they are driving out those who helped make growth possible.

Technology

There were many inventions and new technology developed during the 20's but possibly the one that had the greatest impact before the turn of the next decade was Radio. It soon became a staple of peoples lives providing entertainment , News , and new ideas . Another very important invention also started to impact peoples lives and that was the uses of airplanes apart from as a weapon of war , Air Mail would provide some of the impetus and investment needed to improve stability and provide a practical use , as a byproduct the airplane became used as a means for entertainment with stunts at Fairs also man realized he could push the bounds by attempting previously un thought of ideas a good example is Charles A. Lindbergh crossing the Atlantic Ocean by himself in an airplane

It was during the 20's that automatic vending machines began to appear to dispense soft drinks



Inventions The Year Invented Inventors and Country (or attributed to First Use)

Aerosol Sprays ----- 1926 Norway by Erik Rotheim
Antibiotics ----- 1928 England by Alexander Fleming
Colour Television ----- 1927 Scotland by John Logie Baird
Frozen Food ----- 1924 USA by Clarence Birdseye
Hair Dryer ----- 1920 Germany
Hearing Aid ----- 1923 England
Iron Lung ----- 1928 USA by Philip Drinker
Liquid Fuel Rocket ----- 1926 USA by Robert Goddard
Quartz Time keeping ----- 1927 Switzerland by Hans Wilsdorf from England
Sticky Plasters ----- 1920 USA by Earle Dickson
Talking Pictures ----- 1927 USA
Television ----- 1923 Scotland by John Logie Baird
Ultracentrifuge ----- 1923 Sweden by The Suedberg - separates proteins
Videophone ----- 1927 USA

Period Leading up to the 1920's

You can not talk about the 20's without mentioning "The Great Pandemic" from 1918 - 1919 , this influenza epidemic was a global catastrophe (Also Known as Spanish Flu) which is believed to have caused the death of over 40 million people worldwide. This is one of the main reasons governments round the world are still so concerned with "Bird Flu"



The Basics of a 1920s Home Floor Plan

A basic floor plan of a house in the 1920s included two bedrooms right next to one another at one end of the house with a bathroom adjacent to one of the bedrooms. The kitchen and dining room are also proximity to this bathroom, which is fairly small.

The living room of this house is fairly large-about the same size as the kitchen and dining room put together. Off of the living room is an exit with a porch.

Other homes during the 1920s were built with two-stall garages or a sunroof. Additionally, the yard around homes was often landscaped.

Sample Floor Plan of Home in 1928 and 1920s Living Room



Home Sizes and Prices

Home sized varied, and ranged in prices from a few thousand dollars to about ten thousand dollars for a four to six room home. Some homes were designed for one family but quite often they were designed for more than one family to live next to one another.

Many built their homes from Self Home Build Kits, an example are those sold by Sears through their home shopping catalog.



1920s Home Flooring

Oak hardwood flooring was a hit in the 1920s as well. This is a classic type of woodworking that is often used and admired to this present day. It was most likely used in the kitchen dining room and/or living room, but could have also been used in other rooms of the house as well.

Linoleum Floor Patterns were also very popular during the early twenties (1924). Linoleum is the same floor material that is used in many kitchens today.

Home Exteriors in the 1920s

A little bit more of an unusual exterior for a 1920s home is one that was designed with green shingled roofing all the way to the bottom of the windows. From that point up, wood siding was installed.

Other Roofing Materials of 1920s Homes

One style of roofing used in the 1920s was vulcanite hexagon slabs. These shingles were made from asphalt. Other types of weatherproof shingling were also made to be placed over the top of old wood roofing. Additionally, common colors for shingling in these days were green, red, or blue-black.

Furnishings Placed in 1920s Homes

Furniture and décor that was placed in 1920s home had a look all of its own for the decade. You may notice furniture in people's homes today of a similar style made from the same materials. If so, it is a possibility that these furniture pieces you see in people's homes today may be 1920s' originals.

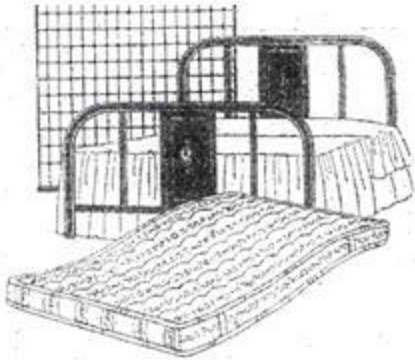
Bedrooms:

A large number of bedroom dresser and vanity furniture pieces were made of sturdy materials such as oak, walnut, cedar, or mahogany woods. Dressers and vanities both were usually made of an elegant yet simple carved wood design (as appearing in ad photos).

The styles of beds used during the 1920s varied. For example, in 1923 simple metal beds with two-inch posts that came with mattresses and springs were placed in rooms. In 1928 double beds were made out of similar carved wood frames along with corresponding bedroom dresser or vanity pieces.



Another metal bed is signature of the 1920s decade-the Simmons bed in graceline tubing. This bed was designed with a w/decorated steel center and high grade link fabric springs. The Liberty mattress made sleeping more comfortable for those who were to use this bed.



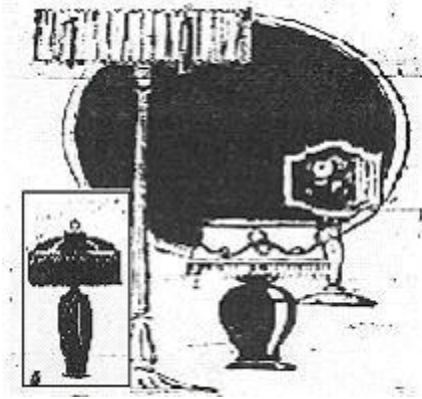
A similar model of Simmons bed that is very similar to the one described in the previous paragraph is designed with a walnut finish. This bed contains five filler rods in each end, as well as the same high grade link fabric springs and all cotton Liberty mattress.

Living Room:

In the early 1920s, living room furniture sets often included a number of coordinating pieces, such as an arm chair, reception chair, arm rocker, tabourette, bookend, and table. Another very popular item that was displayed during the early 1920s (and perhaps later) is the very distinct wrought iron bridge lamp.



Picture of Wrought Iron Bridge Lamp:



Drapery Materials

Cretonne, Silk, or Pongee Materials were often used to make draperies, especially for the living room or family room. It is most likely that curtains were made for the kitchen and bathroom from similar materials which more than likely of a lighter grade.

Living Room Sets

A living room set that is fairly typical of this particular time in history is a three piece living room set made from mohair fabric. This particular set would usually include pieces of furniture such as an 84-inch davenport, club chair, and wing chair with reversible spring cushions (made in 1928).

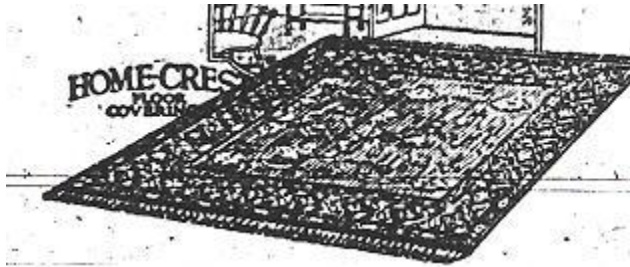
Three-piece living rooms such as the one described above were very common. However, one of the best deals for furniture that is offered during the 1920s is the 14-piece furniture set. This suite would usually consist of two chairs and couch, which are all upholstered.

Additional items were included with this set such as a Floor lamp with pleated shade, small round lamp table (appears in photo to be of a glass top), magazine basket, and bronze book ends were also included. .

Other types of lamps besides the bridge lamp described earlier in this section include various junior, floor, and table models of lamps. These particular units usually were made with polyester, chrome, or mahogany bases and glass or silk lampshades with fringed trim.



One other popular item that was used to decorate homes in this era was a rug made of materials such as worsted wool or velvet. Usually these were placed in the center of a living room or dining room floor, and sometimes in the bedroom.



Kitchen:

Kitchen furniture was often installed in homes during the 1920s, especially if homes were not already designed with built-in shelves and cupboards. One of the most common additions made to a home during this decade was a piece such as the 36-inch high kitchen cabinet. This cabinet was most likely made of oak or other strong wood.

Another oak kitchen cabinet that was installed in a home of this time period was a kitchen cabinet with a white porcelain top. This is one of the items that helped make kitchen cooking duties easier.

Appliances and Electronic Equipment

Since the invention of electricity towards the end of the 19th century, new household items have been invented. Numerous appliances were made to help ease the burden of house chores.

For instance, there was a unit called the Universal chafing dish, flat iron, and washing machine. This had appeared in a 1924 ad in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Another item that was often used was the electric clothes washer made by Western Electric. This photo will help you get an idea of what one of these items looked like.

Vacuum cleaners have been invented by this time, and have become more modernized. The following is a photo of an ad for a Hoover vacuum cleaner that was displayed in a 1920 newspaper:



The Kitchen Ice Box

Another common unit used during this time was the ice box, however it is noted that this unit was most likely not electrical at this time. This unit was the early version of a modern-day refrigerator. It acts as a huge cooler, which is filled with ice.

The interior of this icebox was lined with galvanized steel, and appears to be encased in a finished wood exterior (see photo below). This was a unit that was very popular in homes during the late 1920s.

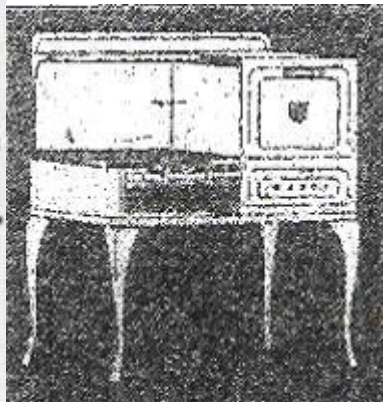
Cooking appliances that were considered state-of-the art during this time include the 16-inch oven and broiler. This particular unit has one giant and three standard burners and is build with concealed construction.

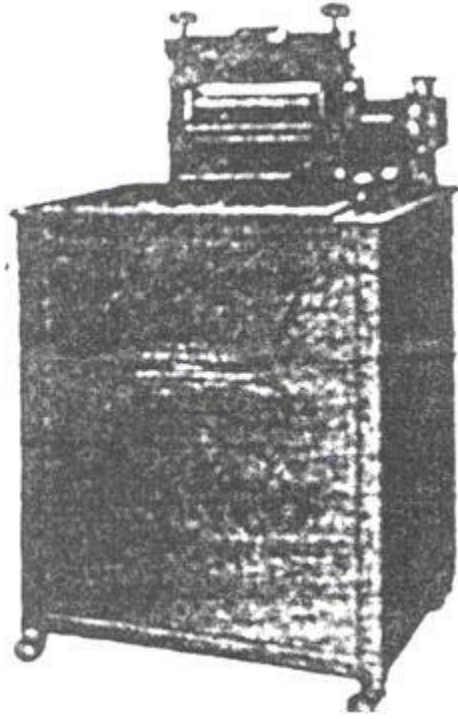
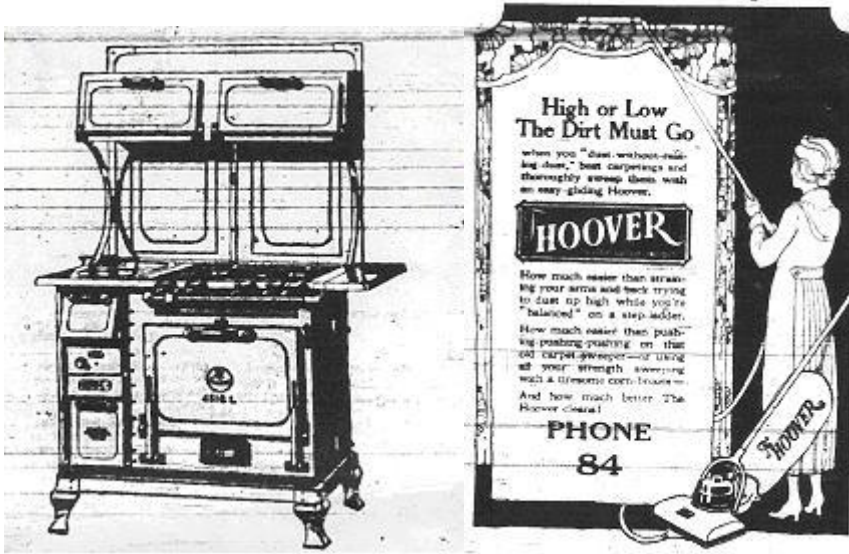
Imagine cooking on this unit pictured below, which cost only \$59 on sale in the year 1928 (WI, USA):

Another unit was installed in homes from time to time as well.

Gas-Coal Combination Unit:

Some Pictures of some of the items to be found in 1920's Kitchen





Dining Room:

The dining room was one of the most lived-in rooms of the entire house. Therefore, the furniture in these rooms was usually quite simple but elegant—just like most of the other furniture built in the 1920s. Dining room furniture sets often included an average of eight pieces.



One eight piece dining set that was created during this decade was one that included a 60-inch buffet, oblong extension table with a cut-cornered edges, five dinner chairs and host chair. The picture that appeared along with the description of this ad very strongly leads one to believe that the seats of the chair were covered with either velour or tapestry upholstery.

Another eight-piece dining set of the 1920s was made out of walnut. This set included a buffet, host chair, five dinner chairs, and table with six legs and decorative stretchers (on table legs).

Other signature pieces of this era include the Queen Ann Table which was displayed in an ad in the year 1924, and the 9x12 velvet rug. The rug could possibly have been used to accent either a dining room floor or a living room floor.

Baby's Room:

Quite a bit of baby's furniture in the 1920s was made from enameled metal or enameled wicker (a type of straw). For instance, families with a baby during this time period often owned a white enameled wicker baby's wardrobe w/folding drawers (1923). This may have been set up in a baby's room along with a white enameled metal crib with drop sides (possibly 28x52 inch unit).

1920s-The Birth of Radio Broadcasting and Household Radios

Studies of the history of radio conclude that radio broadcasting first took place at the beginning of the decade (in the year 1920). Then, from the years of 1923 to 1930 more than half of American households had already owned their own radios.

Crystal radios were among the first household radios ever made. These radios had a weak signal (especially in the headphones) and required the use of an "inverted L" antenna.

In later years the crystal that was used to make the original household radios was replaced by a vacuum tube. This greatly improved the reception of the original radio. This radio improvement was first by a man named Edwin Armstrong. The first model of radio that was designed with this vacuum tube was the Radiola Superheterodyne.



Another line of radios was created in later years. For example, in the year 1925 the combination phonographic radio was created. The following is an example of what an Orthophonic Victrola radio looked like in the year 1925 (edited drawing taken from a WI newspaper):



The above model of phonograph/radio was usually one that sat in most living rooms or dining rooms. Over the years of course much smaller hand-held and portable radios were developed as well (i.e. the 1928 R.C.A. Radiola 18).



Jazz Roots Artists

[Armstrong](#) | [Beiderbecke](#) | [Europe](#) | [Hardin](#) | [Henderson](#) | [Morton](#) | [Oliver](#) |
[ODJB](#) | [Rainey](#) | [Smith](#) | [Teagarden](#)



LOUIS "SATCHMO" ARMSTRONG (1900-1971) Perhaps the most influential figure in the history of jazz, Armstrong first learned to play the cornet in a New Orleans reform school. Shortly after his release at age fourteen, Armstrong received his own instrument and formal instruction from his long-time mentor **Joe "King" Oliver**. In the early days of his career, Armstrong played with Oliver's and Kid Ory's New Orleans groups and with Fate Marable's band in St. Louis.

By 1922, Armstrong joined the migration North. He moved to Chicago to join Oliver's Creole Jazz Band, but in short time, he left his mentor to establish a prolific, independent career. From New York to Los Angeles, Armstrong worked with a number of preeminent jazz bands and Blues singers. His recordings and show tours marked jazz music's shift from a regionally-rooted art form to a national production. By the late 1930s, the Louis Armstrong and Orchestra band ushered in the Swing Era and Armstrong became one of the first early jazz musicians to attain national stardom. Despite the shift in public taste during the 1940s and 1950s, Armstrong maintained his national position until his death in 1971.

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LEON "BIX" BEIDERBECKE (1903-1931) Born in Davenport, Iowa, Beiderbecke was one of the leading jazz figures from the Midwest. Influenced by the **Original Dixieland Jazz Band**, the self-taught cornet player and pianist launched his career with the Wolverine Orchestra after his expulsion from military school. Though he never learned to read music well, Beiderbecke's legendary tone later helped him secure soloist positions with popular Jazz Age bands, including Paul Whiteman's Orchestra. His piano masterpiece, "In a Mist," was recorded in 1926.

Beiderbecke was a victim of the age, however, and his alcoholism cost him both his career and life. In 1931, Beiderbecke, 28, died during an alcoholic seizure. His legend has continued to grow since his death.

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LT. JAMES REESE EUROPE (1881-1919) The son of musicians, young Europe first studied violin with Enrico Hurlei, the assistant director of the Marine Corps Band in Washington, D.C. Nearly ten years later, Europe, at age 22, was a featured pianist in a New York caberet. After serving as musical director for *Shoo-Fly Regiment* (1907) and *Mr. Lode of Coal* (1909), Europe founded the Clef Club in 1910. Unique among African American organizations of its time, the Clef Club was both a fraternity and a union that established its own club and booking office. In 1912, the Clef Club Orchestra made the first of three appearances at Carnegie Hall. Shortly thereafter, the famous New York Dancers, Vernon and Irene Castle, hired Europe as their band leader. Before his resignation in 1914, Reese had helped the Castles popularize the fox trot.

Europe enlisted as an army private during World War I and helped form a military band as a combat unit. (In 1918, this band was the first African American unit to enter France.) After introducing jazz abroad, Europe and his band returned to New York in 1919 to begin a United States tour. On the night of the final concert, Europe was stabbed and killed by his drummer. Though his career was ended abruptly, Europe left an indelible impression on early jazz music. Notably, on the day following his murder, the papers announced: "The Jazz



King is Dead."

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LILLIAN HARDIN-ARMSTRONG (1898-1971) The leading pioneer for women in early jazz, Hardin, a Fisk University graduate, was a pianist and composer for most of the important jazz bands from New Orleans. After playing for a time with Sugar Johnny's Creole Orchestra and Freddie Kennard's Original Creole Orchestra, Hardin joined **King Oliver's** Creole Jazz Band in Chicago. In 1924, she married the band's newest member, **Louis Armstrong**. After encouraging Armstrong to step out on his own, Hardin was a leading contributor to her husband's *Hot Five* and *Hot Seven* recordings. During the 1920s, Hardin also led her own band at Chicago's Dreamland Cafe.

Following her divorce from Armstrong in 1938, Hardin made a number of appearances in Broadway shows and worked as a Swing vocalist. Hardin returned to the Chicago nightclubs in the 1940s and continued to record into the 1960s. She died in 1971 during a memorial concert for Louis Armstrong.

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JAMES FLETCHER HENDERSON (1897-1952) A chemistry and mathematics major from Atlanta University, Henderson turned to professional music after failing to find work as a chemist in New York. After distributing music and managing the Black Swan Recording Company, Henderson organized and led a jazz band at the Club Alabam. In time, he hired the saxophonist **Coleman Hawkins** and the leading trumpet player **Louis Armstrong**.

After his first orchestra disbanded in 1939, Henderson became the first black pianist and arranger hired by a white band, the **Benny Goodman** Orchestra. With Goodman, Henderson helped create one of the most popular bands of the Swing Era. Henderson continued to arrange for the Goodman Orchestra and tour with Ethel Waters until a crippling stroke in 1950.

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FERDINAND "JELLY ROLL" MORTON (1890-1941)

Having worked alternately as a gambler, pool shark, pimp, vaudeville comedian, and a pianist, "Jelly Roll" Morton (born Ferdinand Joseph LaMenthe) is perhaps the most colorful figure in the history of early jazz. Born into sophisticated Creole culture, Morton received classical piano training as a child, but he launched his career in the whorehouses and bordellos of New Orleans. Travelling through the South and the Midwest, Morton worked as an arranger and pianist for jazz bands in Chicago, St. Louis, and Los Angeles. Along with his solo work, Morton made a number of recordings with the Chicago Red Hot Peppers in the late 1920s. Morton's style was distinctive in its blend of jazz and ragtime.

As Swing came to dominate the jazz scene in the 1930s, however, Morton was eclipsed by popular artists like **Louis Armstrong**. He moved to Washinton, D.C., where he worked in small clubs until his death in 1941.

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JOE "KING" OLIVER (1885-1938) Raised in the musically-vibrant New Orleans, Oliver first learned to play trombone, then switched to the coronet--an instrument he famously used to produce a wide range of "hot jazz" sounds. After working with a number of marching bands in New Orleans, Oliver, dubbed "King" by fellow bandleader Kid Ory, moved to Chicago in 1919 to play with Bill Johnson's Original Creole Orchestra. By 1922, he had established King Oliver's Creole Jazz Band and invited his protege **Louis Armstrong** to join him from New Orleans. As jazz historians would later note, Oliver's band marked a milestone in jazz music, for, in short, the group introduced Amstrong's playing to the world.

The Creole Jazz Band eventually disbanded in 1924, and Oliver went on to make recordings with **Jelly Roll Morton** and the Dixie Syncopators. While Armstrong continued to rise in fame, however, Oliver quickly lost his position in the jazz world. He died in 1938 as a poolroom janitor.

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ORIGINAL DIXIELAND JAZZ (JASS) BAND

In 1917, the Original Dixieland Jazz Band (ODJB)--including cornetist Nick LaRocca, clarinetist Larry Shields, trombonist Eddie Edwards, pianist Harry Ragas, and drummer Tony Sbarbaro--made the first jazz record ever released. Though the racial climate of early twentieth-century America enabled the white band to achieve this milestone before any African American artist, the ODJB's recording did introduce a black-derived sound to a national market. In turn, with the release of "Livery Stable Blues" and "Dixie Jass Band One Step," the ODJB's success marked the beginning of the "Roaring Twenties."

Like the number of African American and Creole musicians who influenced the band's musical style, the ODJB formed in New Orleans and migrated to Chicago and New York. After hit success in the United States, the band toured and recorded in London. Shortly after returning to America, however, the band lost its public support. The group disbanded in 1925, but rejoined in the 1940s to record V-discs during World War II.

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GERTRUDE "MA" RAINEY (1886-1939) Following the tradition of her showbiz family, Gertrude Pridgett, the future "Ma" Rainey, began her musical career in minstrel shows. In 1900, she first appeared singing and dancing on the vaudeville stage. Two years later, she married William "Pa" Rainey and became known as "Ma." With their song and dance act, the couple toured the South with Tolliver's Circus, The Musical Extravaganza, and the Rabbit Foot Minstrels. "Ma" Rainey befriended the young singer Bessie Smith during this time.

After launching a solo act with the T.O.B.A vaudeville circuit, Rainey, the "Mother of the Blues," signed a recording contract with Paramount in 1923. Accompanied by such noted jazz musicians as Louis Armstrong, Fletcher Henderson and Coleman Hawkins, Ma Rainey recorded 100 songs in the 1920s.

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BESSIE SMITH (1895-1937) Born in Chattanooga, Tennessee, Bessie Smith began her career traveling through the South in tent shows and bars. Sometime near 1919, Smith was discovered by **Ma Rainey** and subsequently received training as a blues singer. In the early 1920s, Smith and Rainey were the most popular Blues singers in the vaudeville circuit. In 1923, after moving to Philadelphia, Smith made her first recording, "Down Hearted Blues," with Columbia Records. The record sold more than 750,000 copies the first year, and Smith became one of the most popular stars of the 1920s. Throughout the decade, Smith recorded with a number of noted jazz musicians, including **Fletcher Henderson** and **Louis Armstrong**.

With the rise of the Classic Blues style of the 1930s, however, Smith's popularity began to wane. After Columbia Records ended her contract, Smith recorded for the last time in 1933. Hoping to recast herself as a Swing musician, Smith returned to the South where she continued to enjoy a large following. Yet in 1937, Smith's career was cut short by a fatal car accident. Over a half-century later, the rumor persists that Smith was denied the medical treatment that could have saved her life because she was black.

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WELDON "JACK" TEAGARDEN (1905-1964) Following his travels through the Southwest, Teagarden, a self-taught trombonist, arrived in New York to make his recording debut in 1927. In short time, Teagarden was highly regarded for his melodic playing style and for his singing voice. He has been remembered by a number of jazz historians as the best white jazz singer of his time. Teagarden recorded with a number of jazz groups throughout his career, including the Roger Wolfe Kahn, **Louis Armstrong**, and Paul Whiteman Orchestras. After leaving Louis Armstrong's All-Stars, Teagarden directed a Dixieland sextet for the remainder of his career. He toured the Far East and appeared in a television recording session before his death in 1964.



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Thank you and enjoy yourself this evening.

Cherryl Miller
Executive Secretary