

Highlights in History

1900 - 1939

REM 463

A TEACHING RESOURCE FROM...



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Highlights in History

Note to the teacher:

In this unit of highlights, we look at the events and people of the 1900's, with a focus on the first third of the century. This is an era that brings the world into the age of mass media and communication; therefore, this unit includes many of the highlights that mark this new era, as well as stories about the many important events of this period that changed the world for all time. Two time line activities are included in the unit so students can visualize the interrelationship of all these events. Instead of a compartmental approach to education, this unit attempts to present students with an integrated view, including achievements in science, music, art, invention, and world events.

Included are:

- GET THE FACTS — A Pre/Post Test
- 1900's** The Good Old Days — They Weren't That Good
- 1903** The Wright Stuff
- 1905** Fauves: The Beasts
- 1909** Ship to Shore
- 1914** The Shot Heard Around the World
- SUMMARIZE — Stories 1-5

- 1914** The Panama Canal
- 1917** The Russian Revolution
- 1917** Russia's Rachmaninoff
- 1919** The Rise of the Gangster
- 1920** Harlem: Blacks Come to the City
- SUMMARIZE — Stories 6-10

- MATCHING — Review of Stories 1-10
- 1920** The New Woman
- 1920** The Age of Heroes
- 1921** The Greatest Scientist of the 20th Century
- 1922** The Rise of the Dictator
- 1923** Sigmund Freud: New Treatments
- SUMMARIZE — Stories 11-15

- 1926** Annie Oakley: Sharpshooter
- 1927** Pictures That Move and Talk
- 1928** Alexander Fleming: Discoverer of the Miracle Drug
- 1929** The Great Depression
- 1939** World War II Begins
- SUMMARIZE — Stories 16-20
- HOW THE MOVIES MOVE — Activity

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Time Line 1903-1939: The Unit Events
- Time Line 1900-1938: Other Interesting Events
- Map Research: Women Get the Vote
- Research Page: I Would Like to Find Out More About . . .

Name _____

PRE/POST TEST

GET THE FACTS

1. What did cooking stoves use for fuel in the 1900's?

2. What was the name of Orville and Wilbur Wright's first airplane?

3. What nickname did the critics give the new artists of the early 20th Century?

4. Who invented the radio? _____
5. When did World War I end? _____
6. Which diseases claimed the lives of many Panama Canal workers?

7. What happened to the Czar and his family during the Russian Revolution?

8. Who was Sergei Rachmaninoff? _____
9. Who was Al Capone? _____
10. Which group of people moved to Harlem in the twenties?

11. What did the 19th Amendment do?

12. What was Joe Louis' sport? _____
13. Who is considered the greatest genius of the 20th Century?

14. Who was the strong dictator in Russia for 25 years?

15. Whose new method of treating the mind was called “psychoanalysis”?

16. Which woman was the most famous sharpshooter of her time?

17. Who starred in the first talking movie?

18. Which drug saved countless soldiers from dying of infection during World War II?

19. When did the stock market “crash” and the Depression begin?

20. When did Hitler attack Poland and cause England to declare war on Germany?

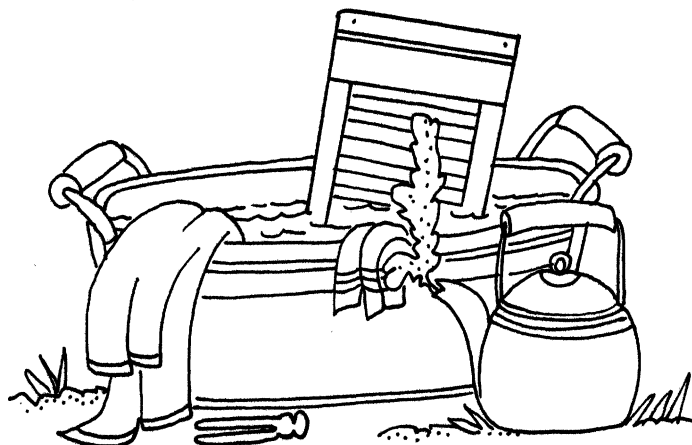
The Good Old Days — They Weren't So Good

Your parents and grandparents might talk about “the good old days.” What were the “good old days” like in the early 1900’s? Not so good.

Women cooked on an iron stove. They sweated in front of this very hot stove. It needed dry wood in order to heat. “Slaving over a hot stove” really had meaning in those days!

Laundry day was even worse for women. There were no washing machines. Mother lugged huge kettles of hot water outside.

She had to scrub the clothes, piece by piece, on a scrub board. Then, she had to beat, rinse, and wring them. Finally, she could hang her laundry on the line.



It was hard to keep things clean. In the cities, the streets were littered with horse manure! There were three million horses on the streets of America at the beginning of the 20th Century. Each horse produced between 20 and 25 pounds of manure a day. This attracted swarms of flies. In the summers, the cities smelled terrible! On dry days, the horses pounded the manure to dust, and it blew all over. This dust covered clothes, furniture, and almost everything in sight. In 1900, in the city of Rochester, New York, the 15,000 horses produced enough manure to cover an acre of ground with a layer 175 feet high! The horseless carriage was invented just in time!

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1. Why was it so hard to keep things clean in the cities?

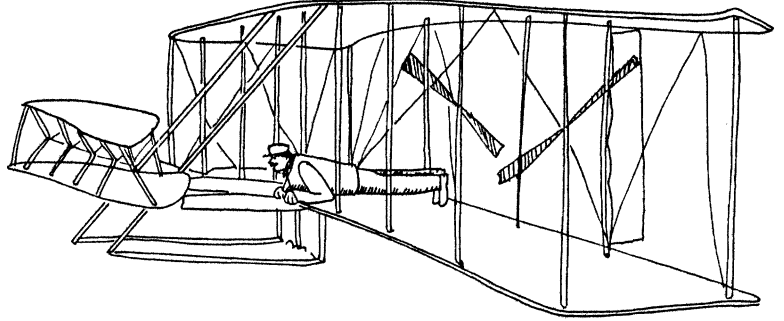
2. Why were there so many horses on the streets at the turn of the century?

3. Tell how women did the laundry in the “good old days.”

BONUS: Do the cars of today produce pollution of a different kind than horses? Explain.

The Wright Stuff

December 17, 1903, was a very cold day. On Kill Devil Hill, near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, a small group of people was huddled together to keep warm. They were looking up toward the sky. Orville Wright was up in a flying machine! The five people watching this miracle yelled and screamed! For 12 seconds, Orville stayed in the air! He covered 120 feet! Later in the day, Wilbur Wright flew for 59 seconds and covered 852 feet!



Their plane, called the *Flyer I*, or *Kitty Hawk*, cost less than a thousand dollars to build. It had a wing span of about 40 feet. It weighed 750 pounds. Its 12-horsepower engine weighed only about 170 pounds.

Few newspapers bothered to report this event. Only a handful of people knew that man had really flown. It wasn't until five years later that the world knew that the Wright brothers had succeeded.

Later, in 1904, soon after their first flight, the brothers built a second plane. They made over 100 flights in it. Still, people did not believe the airplane had been invented. So, in 1908, Wilbur took one of the planes to France to show what his airplane could do. Finally, people believed it. Man could fly!

In 1909, the United States government put \$30,000 into the budget for Army aviation. The Wright brothers finally made the fairy tale of flying come true.

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1. When did the Wright brothers make their first successful flight?

 2. Why do you suppose it took so long for people to believe that man could fly?

 3. What did the U.S. government do that proved they believed in the future of the airplane?

BONUS: Describe the *Kitty Hawk*. Use your encyclopedia to find out more details.

Fauves — The Beasts

“Oh, look at those paintings, Pierre! Horrible work! The color is too bright! Beasts!” These words were heard everywhere in the art gallery that day in Paris. It was 1905, and a new group of artists was showing their paintings for the first time.

To many people, the artists — Matisse, Rouault, and Kirchner — painted like wild beasts. The people thought the paintings were too bold, had too much color, and were too wild. That’s why some people nicknamed the artists the “Fauves,” which means *wild beasts* in French.

What did these new paintings look like? First, the pictures seemed to be flat. The figures were outlined in the paintings as they would be in a drawing. Also, the colors were very bright. The artists used lots of reds and blues. Finally, at times, the artists seemed to be angry and painted with wide, slashing brush strokes. Some even used their painting knives to put the paint on the canvas. To many, the paintings looked like the work of children.



During the years 1901-1906, these artists showed their new style of painting in galleries and museums. Most people were shocked by the new art. Not many people bought the paintings. The artists stayed poor and struggling. Guess what ONE of those paintings is worth today? In 1992 a Matisse painting entitled “Asia” sold for eleven million dollars.

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1. What does the word “Fauve” mean in French?

2. Name the artists who were called the “Fauves.”

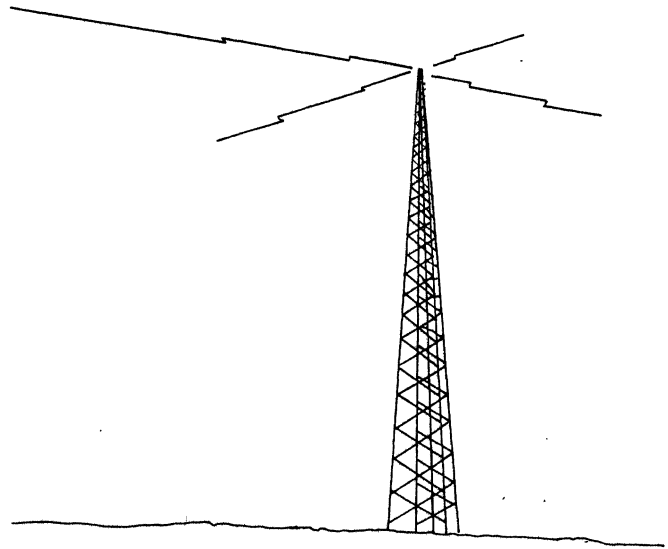
3. Why do you think the paintings are worth so much today?

BONUS: Look up Matisse in an encyclopedia. What do you think about his style of painting? Explain.

Ship to Shore

The sea tossed the ship around as if it were a paper boat. The *S.S. Republic* was sinking! "Get help," people shouted. "Help us! We've hit something! We'll drown!" Fortunately, the radio messages brought help, and all but six people were rescued.

In 1909, this new invention, the radio, was used at sea and helped in the rescue of many people. Guglielmo Marconi was the inventor of the radio. In 1895, he proved that his idea of sending messages without wires worked. Then, in 1901, he sent a radio message across the Atlantic Ocean to Europe. By 1909, many ships at sea had radios.



The radio messages were sent in the dot-and-dash method of Morse Code. The voice message was not sent until later. Many radio stations were started because of Marconi's invention. By the 1920's, people all over the world were listening to the radio.

Marconi's invention has proved very important in our modern world. We use the radio for news, entertainment, police work, and many other things. The radio, which many believe even more important than the telephone, can reach people on land, at sea, and in the air.

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1. Who invented the radio?

2. How was the radio used to save the passengers on the *S.S. Republic*?

3. List some other ways the radio is used.

BONUS: Name three types of jobs where a radio is used. Use an encyclopedia.
