

## Changing Manners & Morals in the 1920s

*How did people spend their time in the 1920s and how did that differ from decades before?*

### I. Work

- a. **More women entered the workplace** as nurses, librarians, teachers, and secretaries. Paid less than men.
- b. **Work week shrunk**



### II. Family

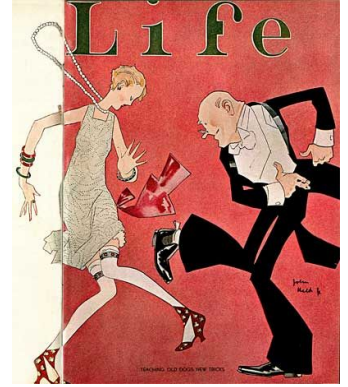
- a. **Family size decreased** between 1920-1930 – this was in large part due to the fact that \_\_\_\_\_ was more widely used
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ **rate rose** – WHY? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c. Women managed the household and finances, men worked, and children were no longer considered laborers/ wage earners but rather children who needed nurturing and education.
- d. **Household Management**
  - i. The job of taking care of the home became easier in the 1920s. HOW SO?
- e. **Overall, Americans in the 1920s were healthier than ever before**
  - i. Better diets and shorter workdays
  - ii. Life expectancy increased
  - iii. Infant mortality rate decreased by 2/3
  - iv. Less life-threatening diseases (sanitation, research, nutrition)

### III. Leisure

- a. Thanks to shorter work weeks, fewer work hours, and increased wages, people in the 1920s had more time to relax and enjoy themselves
- b. A central part of 1920s culture was centered around leisure pursuits
  - i. Movies
  - ii. Sports arenas and sports heroes (Babe Ruth, Jack Dempsey)
  - iii. Mini-golf
  - iv. Speakeasies (illegal bars)
  - v. Radio and popular songs
  - vi. Dance halls and dance marathons



- vii. Fads (flag pole sitting and marathons)
- c. In 1929, Americans spent \$4.5 billion on entertainment (incl. sports)



## Changing Manners and Morals

### I. Why was there this change in manner and morals? Why then?

- a. Returning \_\_\_\_\_ wanted to seize the day and enjoy life after the trauma of war.
- b. More women were out of the home working
- c. Meanwhile, kids had discovered newfound freedom/space away from their parents and other adults.
  - i. \_\_\_\_\_ laws, mandatory \_\_\_\_\_ attendance laws, and higher college attendance rates kept kids in school longer than before. HOW DID THIS LEAD TO CHANGE?

ii. The 1920s saw a birth of a youth culture – MEANING WHAT?

- d. Advances in communications helped to rapidly spread the new culture to people nationwide (radio, movies, advertising, etc.)
- e. New influences led to a culture of defying societal conventions.
- d. How did dating patterns change in the 1920s? (In general, there were freer relations between men and women in the 1920s and this carried over into the youth.) EXPLAIN THE CHANGES.



©1929 METZGER'S IDEA OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO SOCIETY.