

Automobile (1)

Aviation (2)

Bennett Buggy (3)

Consumerism (4)

Famous Five (5)

Flappers (6)

Group of Seven (7)

Insulin (8)

Prohibition (9)

Radio (10)

Stock Market Crash (11)

William Lyon Mackenzie King (12)

1.

Information: Many technological advancements that improved the functions of this were made in the 1920s. This technological innovation started out very basic at the beginning of the 1920s, but was a vast improvement over horse and buggy. Initially, they were open to the elements. This quickly changed and became enclosed and fitted with heaters to improve comfort. Over the decade, they improved significantly in style, speed, and safety. This rapidly growing industry was led by Henry Ford and the Ford Motor Company. Through increased wages throughout the country and lower cost of creation of this innovation, this technology became mass produced and increasingly affordable. It was often purchased on installment plans. This innovation allowed people the ability to travel much further and allowed for touring vacations to become more popular. Many industries developed as a result of this innovation.

Discussion: How does this relate to your life and/or life in the 21st century?

Discussion Starting Point: *What industries do you think were affected by this innovation that we still encounter today?*

2.

Information: This topic has a direct link to a form of fighting in World War I. These members of the war came home wanting to continue their craft. They went around the county and performed daring stunts over top of country fairs. They would even take daring citizens on “two bucks a flip” rides. Others continued to use this craft through working for oil and mining companies looking to get people and supplies to remote regions of Canada. The also became valuable resources for forest fires and photography. The possibility of passenger travel became clear and this form of travel began to be used from city to city by 1927. The founding company which would later become Air Canada was formed in 1937.

Discussion: How does this relate to your life and/or life in the 21st century?

Discussion Starting Point: *How could life be different if the various uses for this topic were never discovered?*

3.

Information: This was the name given to cars with the engines removed that were pulled by horses. In the 1920s farmers bought automobiles and by the 1930s between the stock market crash and the drought, they could not afford the cost of gas or repairs to run these vehicles.

Someone got the idea of taking out the engine and converting the previously gas powered automobile into a buggy pulled by horsepower. This nickname developed after R.B. Bennet who was the Prime Minister of Canada from 1930 to 1935 and who was primarily blamed for the poverty that occurred in Canada during this time.

Discussion: How does this relate to your life and/or life in the 21st century?

Discussion Starting Point: *Are politicians today blamed for everything that happens to Canada's economy. Do people re-invent tools to make them more useful?*

4.

Information: This is defined as a social and economic order based on fostering a desire to purchase goods and services in even greater amounts. As the economy boomed in the 1920s, people experienced a greater freedom with their money. Not only were they working and not at war, but the goods they could purchase were more varied and not restricted by the government. This developed a disposable income which is money that was available after providing for ones family. This allowed for a society of spending and persuasion to purchase. Mass media turned to mass advertising as Canadians were constantly seeing messages in flyers, newspapers, and magazines in addition to hearing about it over the radio. The message was loud and clear, shop and buy products.

Discussion: How does this relate to your life and/or life in the 21st century?

Discussion Starting Point: *How does constant advertising affect the spending habits of individuals today?*

5.

Information: This was the nickname given to a group of women which included Emily Murphy, Nellie McClung, Louise McKinney, Henrietta Edwards and Irene Parlby. They are very important because of something called The Persons Case. It started with Emily Murphy who was the first woman Judge in the British Empire. A lawyer in her courtroom challenged her right to judge because of her gender. This lawyer stated that Emily Murphy was not considered a 'person' in the eyes of the law because she was a woman. The question of whether or not a woman was a 'person' continued to be brought up for many years. In August 1927 the women mentioned above petitioned the prime minister asking if a woman is considered a 'person'. The Supreme Court of Canada in April of 1928 determined that women were not 'persons' under the law. This group of women continued on and appealed their case to the Privy Council in Britain. Here, after much consideration it was determined that the word 'persons' referred to men and women.

Discussion: How does this relate to your life and/or life in the 21st century?

Discussion Starting Point: *How is the issue of equality relevant in society today?*

6.

Information: This was the name for a young woman who dressed outrageously. She was daring as her hemline rose above the knee and she rolled down her silk stocking. She cut her long hair and developed a 'bobbed' style. These women inspired styles for men that were also seen as outrageous. For men, this consisted of baggy pants, a bright hat, and a bow tie. His hair was often greased down and parted in the middle which imitated the popular movie idols of the day. This was not a common look for everyday Canadians. Most Canadians admired these women from afar seeing them as being daring and wealthy enough to wear the latest fashions.

Discussion: How does this relate to your life and/or life in the 21st century?

Discussion Starting Point: *Are there people who admire popular movie idols today and fashions that are seen as different and outrageous to some?*

7.

Information: At the turn of the century art was changing drastically. This group of Canadian painters were influenced by these changes, called impressionist art. The Impressionists did not care to represent things exactly as they were, but rather wanted to focus on representing their feelings. This group was particularly focused on representing Canada and the Canadian experience in their art. Their influence often came from Canadian landscapes. The group consisted of Lawren Harris, Franklin Carmichael, Frank Johnston, Arthur Lismer, Fred Varley, A.Y. Jackson, and A.J. Casson. The group took sketching trips to northern Ontario and created vary famous paintings. They used bright colours and simple but bold shapes to portray the ruggedness of the Canadian landscape. This was the first group to create a Canadian national style in painting.

Discussion: How does this relate to your life and/or life in the 21st century?

Discussion Starting Point: *Today, Canadian art collectors search for and pay high prices for works but the Group of Seven. Why are they important to Canada? Why is putting Canada on the national stage important?*

8.

Information: This ground breaking treatment for diabetes was discovered in 1922 at the University of Toronto. Frederick Banting, an Ontario doctor, was given credit for this discovery. Banting woke up on October 20, 1920, with an idea of how to treat people with diabetes through using dogs. He then went to the University of Toronto and through J.R.R. Macleod was given use of a research laboratory and assistance of a graduate student, Charles Best. Together Banting and Best, along with help from J.B. Collop, made this available to treat diabetes. In 1923 Banting and Macleod were awarded the Nobel Prize for discovering this cure. Banting did not believe that Best was given the credit that he deserved, and shared half of his \$40 000 award with Best. Macleod shared his award with Collop. There is controversy to this day over who deserves the most credit for this discovery of this cure. Regardless, this is a major landmark in Canada's medical research history as this discovery has saved the lives of millions around the world.

Discussion: How does this relate to your life and/or life in the 21st century?

Discussion Starting Point: *Does this invention affect lives today? How could things be different if this cure was never discovered?*

9.

Information: This law was put into place because of the social problems that were taking place in Canada. This began in 1918 and concerned production, importing, and transportation within Canada. This government introduced situation resulted in a new type of crime organized by individuals called bootleggers. It resulted in the development of establishments called speakeasies which were private clubs which went along with the bootleggers illegal acts. This situation also took place in the United States. This resulted in some positive social effects, such as the crime rate dropping, improvement in work ethics, and a larger portion of workers pay going directly to supporting their family. It became clear that this situation was impossible to enforce and that individuals were making fortunes going against this law. In addition, provincial governments were losing millions in potential taxes. Throughout the 1920s, Canadian provinces gradually dropped this law.

Discussion: How does this relate to your life and/or life in the 21st century?

Discussion Starting Point: *How does this relate to laws today? Is there a substance that is currently having similar argument (losing potential taxes, difficult to enforce)?*

10.

Information: This was the great communication invention of the 1920s. It allowed for Canadians to become connected from the city to the most remote areas, through a common experience. It broadcasted voices, news, weather, bible readings, soap operas, crime and western dramas, comedy and variety, coverage on major sports, advertising for businesses and music. The first broadcast was May 20th, 1920, when Montreal station XWA (later became CFCE) relayed a musical program to a meeting of Royal society in Ottawa. By 1922 over 30 Canadian stations were in some stage of operation and swelled to 91 by mid-decade. The earliest home sets of this innovation were operated by moving a fine wire called a "whisker" over the surface of a crystal. Earphones were needed because the sound was not loud. People in families would often take turns sharing the earpiece in order to get their turn listening. The person who was listening often communicate what was going on to others. This innovation developed quickly and became more efficient over time.

Discussion: How does this relate to your life and/or life in the 21st century?

Discussion Starting Point: *What advancements have you seen in your lifetime, concerning personal listening to recordings?*

11.

Information: This event took place on October 29 of 1929 and became known as “Black Tuesday”. It was one of the most dramatic events which signaled the depression. It was extremely important because in the 1920s many people invested their money in stocks, with dreams of becoming rich overnight. This process runs on the idea of buying low and selling high. This takes a significant amount of understanding, skill, and luck if one is going to make a fortune in this way. Prices of stocks change frequently throughout the day based on supply and demand. As more and more people invest in stocks, prices increase as those stocks become more valuable. During the 1920s, people bought stocks ‘on margin’ meaning they put some money down and borrowed the rest. As stock prices changed, this could result in them still owing more to the lender than the stocks were worth. As the economy was not doing as well in the late 1920s as it did in the early 1920s, stock prices began to decrease. This event took place as people took their money out of stocks in such vast numbers with no new buyers purchasing stocks, that the value of the stocks decreased rapidly. Lenders then called in their ‘on margins’ demanding the rest of the loan be paid back.

Discussion: How does this relate to your life and/or life in the 21st century?

Discussion Starting Point: *Is the stock market used for creating wealth and inventing today?*

12.

Information: This man was prime minister of Canada in 1929 when the stock market crashed. This man, along with many others at the time, believed that the best way to deal with the Depression was to wait it out. He thought that this event would be short-lived and that good economic times would arrive quickly. The many unemployed and struggling men in Canada were not supportive of his lack of assistance to the people. This man stated in 1930 that social welfare was the responsibility of each individual province. He stated that he would not give a “five-cent piece” to any province that did not have a Liberal government. During the 1930 election, this statement was not forgotten and the Conservative party took over the liberals as the government of Canada. R.B. Bennett was the prime minister who replaced this man.

Discussion: How does this relate to your life and/or life in the 21st century?

Discussion Starting Point: *Do politicians today make decisions that negatively affect the working people? Do politicians say things that come back at them later on in a negative way?*