



## Decade 1: 1900-1909

### 1900

- In China, the anti-foreigner Boxers occupy Beijing; international force ends both the siege and the Boxer Rebellion
- *Floradora* opens at Broadway's Casino Theatre; it introduces the Floradora sextet, a predecessor to the chorus line
- Austrian psychiatrist Sigmund Freud publishes *The Interpretation of Dreams*
- German physicist Max Planck formulates an energy theory, postulating the existence of "quanta," which lays the groundwork for the quantum theory of modern physics
- Booker T. Washington publishes his book, *Up from Slavery*
- Washington Society for Negro Dentists becomes first one established in Washington, D.C. for black dentists
- Carrie Chapman Catt succeeds Susan B. Anthony as president of National Woman Suffrage Association

### 1901

- Queen Victoria dies on Jan. 22 after a reign of nearly 64 years, succeeded by her son, Edward VII
- Boxer Rebellion officially ends on Sept. 7 with the signing of the Peace of Beijing
- George H. White serves in U.S. Congress from 1897-1901
- As President McKinley begins his second term, he is fatally shot by anarchist Leon Czolgosz (Sept. 6); Theodore Roosevelt sworn in as successor after McKinley dies on Sept. 14
- J.P. Morgan creates the United States Steel Co., which will become the first \$1 billion Corporation in the world
- Constantin Stanislavsky, founder of the Moscow Art Theatre, formulates the revolutionary Stanislavsky Method of acting, which requires actors to see and hear on stage as they do in real life
- Guglielmo Marconi successfully receives wireless signals transmitted from England to Newfoundland
- First Nobel Prizes awarded
- Hugo De Vries's book *The Mutation Theory* suggests that changes in species are the result of mutations
- American League arrives as a rival to baseball's National League

### 1902

- Cuba gains independence from Spain
- Aswan Dam completed in central Egypt, becoming the chief means of storing irrigation water for the Nile valley

- Bureau of the Census established; later becomes part of the Department of Commerce
- Approximately 150 thousand United Mine Workers strike in Pennsylvania for a wage increase and hours that are more suitable
- Enrico Caruso makes his first gramophone recording
- Beatrix Potter writes her first Peter Rabbit story
- Claude Debussy introduces impressionism to music in *Pelléas and Mélisande*, at the Opéra Comique in Paris
- Willis H. Carrier designs the first system to control temperature and humidity, inventing modern air conditioning
- Fossils of a Tyrannosaurus rex discovered by Barnum Brown in Hell Creek, Montana
- American biologist Walter Sutton suggests that chromosomes are paired and may be the carriers of heredity
- First Rose Bowl, American college football game
- The talents of "Ma" Rainey displayed as "Queen of the Blues"
- Jockey Jimmy Winkfield wins Kentucky Derby in a field of sports made prominent by African-American jockeys

### 1903

- Panama declares independence from Colombia
- King Alexander of Serbia and his wife assassinated by conspirators
- Henry Ford organizes Ford Motor Company
- First transcontinental trip by automobile, San Francisco to New York in 52 days
- Edison Corporation mechanic Edwin S. Porter makes *The Great Train Robbery*; a 12-minute short; it is the first Western
- Wright brothers make aviation history with their first flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina
- Antoine-Henri Becquerel with Pierre Curie and Marie Curie share the Nobel Prize for physics for their work on radioactivity
- First Tour de France
- First modern World Series
- African American social scientist, critic, and public intellectual W. E. B. Du Bois publishes *The Souls Of Black Folk*, which presents the "color line" as the major problem of the 20th Century
- Sarah Breedlove MacWilliams, better known as Madam C. J. Walker, starts an African American hair-care business in Denver and eventually becomes America's first self-made woman millionaire
- Robert S. Abbott begins publishing *The Chicago Defender*, Chicago's first African American newspaper; within a decade, it is one of the country's most influential African American weekly papers
- Maggie Lena Walker founds her bank, The St. Luke Penny Savings Bank, in Richmond, Virginia, becoming the first African-American woman bank president
- Meta Vaux Warrick, African-American sculptress, exhibits her works at the Paris Salon, Paris, France

### 1904

- Russo-Japanese War begins; Russia and Japan fight over Manchuria and Korea

- Entente Cordiale: Britain and France settle their international differences
- London Symphony Orchestra established
- Anton Chekhov introduces modern realism, *The Cherry Orchard* at the Moscow Art Theatre
- New York City subway opens
- US Supreme Court rules that citizens of Puerto Rico cannot be denied entry to the continental US
- US begins construction of the Panama Canal
- Teddy bear first produced; named after President Theodore Roosevelt
- Telephone answering machine invented
- First flat-disk phonograph introduced
- Ice cream cones introduced
- Louis Rigolly breaks through the 100 mph barrier in setting a new Land speed record
- Mary McLeod Bethune establishes Florida college, later renamed Bethune-Cookman College
- Charles W. Follis becomes first African-American professional football player with the Shelby Athletic Association, Shelby, Ohio

### 1905

- Russian Revolution of 1905 begins on “Bloody Sunday” when troops fire onto a defenseless group of demonstrators in St. Petersburg; strikes and riots follow
- Sailors on Russian battleship *Potemkin* mutiny; reforms, including first Duma, established by Czar Nicholas II’s “October Manifesto”
- Industrial Workers of the World founded in Chicago with the hopes of uniting all workers and giving more control to unions
- Numerous advancements in train service include 18-hour rides between New York and Chicago and the first train ever equipped with electric lights
- First movie theater opens in Pittsburgh
- Albert Einstein proposes the Theory of Relativity, including the famous equation  $E = mc^2$
- Albert Einstein provides a mathematical explanation of Brownian motion; many see this as the first proof that atoms actually exist
- Clarence McClung shows that female mammals have 2 X chromosomes and males have an X and a Y
- First direct blood transfusion performed by George Crile
- Two African-American Harvard graduates and classmates, W.E.B. Du Bois and William Monroe Trotter lead a movement called the Niagara Movement in Canada for the sole purpose of protesting the denial of African-Americans their civil and human rights
- Alonzo F. Herndon founds the largest African-American owned business in the nation—the Atlanta Life Insurance Company
- Robert S. Abbott begins publishing the well-known African-American newspaper, the *Chicago Defender*

### 1906

- Roald Amundsen, Norwegian explorer, locates Magnetic North Pole

- Ethiopia declared independent in a tripartite pact
- Finland, first European country to give women the vote
- President Roosevelt sails to the Panama Canal Zone; it is the first time a U.S. president has traveled outside the country while in office
- More than 500 people are killed during the San Francisco earthquake and ensuing three-day fire
- Reginald Fessenden invents wireless telephony, a means for radio waves to carry signals a significant distance
- Upton Sinclair exposes the public-health threat of the meatpacking industry in *The Jungle*
- English biochemist Frederick Hopkins concludes that vitamins are essential and that a lack of vitamins causes scurvy and rickets
- British geologist and seismologist Richard Dixon Oldham notes that earthquake waves travel more slowly when they pass through the center of the Earth, and suggests that our planet has a dense core
- WK Kellogg Co, which manufactures cereal products as breakfast foods, founded
- Skater Madge Syers becomes the first woman world figure skating champion, repeating in 1907
- First Grand Prix motor racing
- Alpha Phi Alpha established as the first intercollegiate Greek letter fraternity established at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

### 1907

- Oklahoma becomes the country's 46th state
- Fall of the stock market sparks financial panic across the US
- Second Hague Peace Conference, of 46 nations, adopts 10 conventions on rules of war
- First Cubist exhibition held in Paris
- Florenz Ziegfeld introduces his *Ziegfeld Follies*, the legendary musical extravaganzas
- Radiometric dating finds the earth is 2.2 billion years old
- Alain Leroy Locke becomes first African-American Rhodes Scholar to study at Oxford in England

### 1908

- President Roosevelt holds White House Conservation Conference, which leads to establishment of the National Conservation Commission
- US Supreme Court, in Danbury Hatters' case, outlaws secondary union boycotts
- Petroleum production starts in Middle East
- Mysterious Siberian explosion levels hundreds of square miles of forest; explanations include a comet, meteorite, natural atomic explosion, or crashed UFO
- Arnold Schoenberg's *Book of Hanging Gardens* released, bringing new style to classical music
- Henry Ford develops the first Model T automobile, which sells for \$850
- National anthem of baseball, *Take Me Out to the Ball Game*, written about a young girl's love of the game
- Edith Berg becomes the first woman to go up in an airplane; she was a passenger in the Wright Brother's Flyer at a demonstration in France

- First women compete in the modern Olympic Games
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority for African-American women established at Howard University, spearheaded by Ethel Hedgemen
- National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses founded by Martha M. Franklin to improve the general situation of practicing black nurses

### 1909

- Japan begins 36-year occupation of Korea; Japanese prince Hirobumi Ito assassinated by Korean nationalist
- North Pole reached by American explorers Robert E. Peary and Matthew Henson
- *The New York Times* publishes the first movie review, a report on D.W. Griffith's *Pippa Passes*
- Serge Diaghilev opens the Ballets Russes de Serge Diaghilev, which begins the era of modern ballet and his 20-year reign as ballet's leading figure; Mikhail Fokine, Diaghilev's choreographer, considered the most influential choreographer of the 20th century
- German bacteriologist Paul Ehrlich finds a cure for syphilis
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) founded by a group of African American and white activists, including W. E. B. Du Bois; Du Bois is only one of the seven African American activists to serve on the NAACP board
- Black explorer Matthew Henson reaches the North Pole along with Admiral Robert Peary; they are the first men known to have reached the North Pole
- New York paper, *The Amsterdam News*, under the editorship of James Anderson, first published