

Fads, fashion, and music of the 1950's

[Art & Culture](#), [Music](#)



Today I'm going to be doing my speech on the fads, fashion, and music of the 1950's. First I'm going to tell you'll about women's fashion in the 1950's. Women in the 1950's wore dresses with pinched in waists to show off their hourglass figures. They wore full skirts, also known as poodle skirts because of the bright motif of a poodle sewn onto the skirt. They wore these skirts with stiff petticoats underneath which gave them volume. They also wore pencil skirts and sweaters.

They often paired poodle skirts with a tight, tucked in collared blouse and a wide waist cinching belt, and to finish the look they wore high heels. They also wore Capri's, or as they called them pedal pushers and Shares, which became popular after Marilyn Monroe was photographed wearing them. Now I'm going to tell you'll about men's attire. Men in the 1950's wore black, navy, or gray business suits for work. They also wore overcoats with their suits, and they complete their look with a fedora hat. When men weren't working they wore cardigans sweaters with khakis.

As rock and roll got popular, then came leather jackets which they wore with black or white t-shirts and Shares. Next I'm going to talk about the fads. One of the popular fads in the 1950's were sock hops. Sock hops are typically informal high school dances in which they removed their shoes and danced in their socks to protect the gym floors. Another popular fad was going to drive-in movie theaters. Drive-in movie theaters were invented in the 1930's but didn't become popular until the 1950's because that's when everyone began having cars.

Parents loved drive-ins because they could take their kids and teens loved them cause it was somewhere they could their dates. Another fad was hula hoops. The hula-hoop was invented by Richard Inner and Arthur " Spud" Melvin, two industrious individuals who founded a company called the Wham-O Company. They came up with the idea in California in 1957 when an Australian visiting the U. S. Told them that back home children participated in an interesting gym class activity- they twirled hoops made of bamboo around their waists and had a great time doing it.

A light bulb went on in these two clever people's minds and the American version of the oops, made of a lightweight but durable plastic, was born. They coined the term " hula-hoop" because they believed the action of the toys mimicked a form of a Hawaiian dance. Another fad was the fez dispenser. It all started in 1927 in Austria when Edward Has came up with this new peppermint candy. An adult breath mint that he decided to market as an alternative forsmoking. The word FEZ comes from the German word for peppermint. FEZ used to be carried around in pocket tins.

Then in 1948 they came out with the " easy, hygienic dispenser" that we all know now to be a regular. In 1952 FEZ wanted to expand their sales so they set their sights on the U. S. A. , to make their product more appealing to Americans. They placed heads on the dispensers and marketed it for children. The last fad I'm going to tell wall about is silly putty. In 1943 James Wright, an engineer, was attempting to create a synthetic rubber. He was unable to achieve the properties he was looking for and put his creation (later to be called silly putty) on the shelf as a failure.

A few years later, a salesman for the DOD Corning Corporation was using the putty to entertain some customers. One of his customers became intrigued with the putty and saw that it had potential as a new toy. So in 1957, after being endorsed on the "Howdy y Show", silly putty became a toy fad. Now I'm going to talk about popular singers in the 50's. The first person I'm going to tell you about is Elvis Presley. The King of Rock & Roll, Elvis Aaron Presley, was born in a two-room house in Tupelo, Mississippi; twin brother Jesse Garçon was stillborn, leaving him to grow up as an only child.

Influenced by the music he heard at all-night gospel sings in Memphis and the black R&B he absorbed on historic Belle Street, his recording career began in 1954 with Sun Records? a year later he moved to RCA Victor. With a unique sound and style, he ushered in a new era of American music. In addition to his rock 'n' roll hits: Heartbreak Hotel and Jailhouse Rock, he had EASY-POP hits: Love Me Tender, Teddy Bear, It's Now or Never, and Loving You. He made a huge impact on the De Sullivan TV program in 1956 and starred in more than thirty films beginning with 'Love Me Tender. His Las Vegas performances and 1968 comeback concert in Hawaii are legendary. Globally, he sold over one billion records, more than any other artist. He died of drug-related heart failure in 1977 at his home, Graceland, in Memphis. The next singer I am going to talk about is Nat King Cole was born in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1919, raised in Chicago, and christened Nat 'King Cole by a Los Angeles club owner in 1937. Beginning his career as a jazz pianist, he formed an innovative, drummers trio, the hugely popular King Cole Trio in 1939 with guitarist Oscar Moore and bassist Wesley Prince.

He conquered the pop charts in the fifties as a laid-mannered, warm-voiced singer of orchestrated love ballads. He died of lung cancer in 1965. And then we have Buddy Holly, the youngest of four children, was born in Lubbock, Texas, where Buddy was a popular nickname for a male 'baby of the family.' By age 13, he and his friend Bob Montgomery were playing a kind of music they called Western Bop,' which they performed at local clubs. He added Larry Weldon and Jerry Allison to form 'The Crickets.' Bespectacled Buddy Holly was the guitarist and vocalist with a singing style that blends rockabilly irreverence with pop and rock 'n' roll.

Among his early recordings were the western/bop/rock hit Peggy Sue, the hillbilly's That'll Be the Day, and the easy-pop hit Everyday featuring Norman Petty on the Celeste. The Crickets' musical talent, together with Buddy Holly's unique 'excited' style of singing, quickly made them a success. He died in 1959 before his 23rd birthday. As part of a rock show, Buddy Holly toured with 'The Big Bopper' and Ritchie Valens. After a concert at the Surf Ballroom in Clear Lake, Iowa, where their small chartered plane crashed and everyone on board was killed. His entire recording career lasted just 18 months.