Additional Resources

Time Line of Major Events of the Women's Rights Movement, 1960s-1970s

Source: Warren K. Lefler

1961 – Birth control (oral contraception) becomes legally available in the United States, allowing women to engage in sexual activity without fear of pregnancy (The 1950s had seen the highest number of out-of-wedlock teen pregnancies in American history)

1963 – Betty Friedan publishes *The Feminine Mystique*

1963 – Congress passes the Equal Pay Act, requiring employers to pay men and women the same wage for equal work

1964 – Congress passes Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, banning discrimination on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, or gender

1966 – The National Organization for Women, a lobbying group that fights for equality for women, is founded

1969 – Elite all-male colleges, including Princeton and Yale, begin admitting women students

1970 – Thousands of women march in the Women's Strike for Equality on the 50th anniversary of women's suffrage

1971 – The first edition of *Our Bodies, Ourselves*, a guidebook for women that is still in print today, was published

1971 – *Ms.* Magazine, a feminist magazine, publishes its first issue

1973 – The Supreme Court upholds a woman's right to an abortion in *Roe v. Wade*

Changing Women's Fashions

The pictures below highlight some of the changes in women's fashions between the mid-1950s (left) and early 1970s (right). How would you describe these changes? Why do you think they were happening? What kind of attitudes do the different styles reflect?

Source: Vintageadbrowser.com

Source: 1971 Sears Roebuck Catalog

Other "Girl Group" Hits

During the late 1950s and early 1960s, numerous "Girl Groups" topped the charts with a wide range of hit singles. Most of these "Girl Groups" consisted of female vocalists, who were backed by instrumental musicians not generally seen with them on stage. They generally did not write their own songs, though a number of emerging female songwriters -- including Carole King, Ellie Greenwich, Cynthia Weil, and Florence Greenberg -- did write or co-write some of the Girl Groups' biggest hits, including "Be My Baby" and three of the songs below. As you read the lyrics and listen to the songs below, think about what themes they emphasize and whose perspective they offer. Also think about why these groups were referred to as "Girl Groups" and their performers as "girls."

The Exciters, “Tell Him” (1962)
(Bert Berns)

Ever since the world began,
    it's been that way for man
And women were created
    to make love their destiny
Then why should true love
    be so complicated?
    Oh yeah!

I know something about love
You gotta take his hand
Show him what the world is made of
One kiss will prove it
If you want him to be always by your side
Take his hand tonight, swallow your foolish pride

The Angels, “My Boyfriend’s Back” (1963)
(Feldman/Goldstein/Gottehrer)

He went away and you hung around
And bothered me, every night
And when I wouldn't go out with you
You said things that weren't very nice

My boyfriend's back and you're gonna be in trouble
(Hey-la-day-la my boyfriend's back)

You see him comin' better cut out on the double
(Hey-la-day-la my boyfriend's back)

You been spreading lies that I was untrue
(Hey-la-day-la my boyfriend's back)

So look out now cause he's comin' after you
(Hey-la-day-la my boyfriend's back)
(Hey, he knows that you been tryin')
(And he knows that you been lyin')

You're gonna be sorry you were ever born
(Hey-la-day-la my boyfriend's back)
Cause he's kinda big and he's awful strong
(Hey-la-day-la my boyfriend's back)
(Hey he knows I wasn't cheatin'!)
(Now you're gonna get a beatin'!)

The Chiffons, "One Fine Day" (1963)
(Gerry Goffin/Carole King)

One fine day
You'll look at me
And then you'll know our love was meant to be
One fine day
You're gonna want me for your girl

The arms I long for
Will open wide
Then you'll be proud to have me right by your side
One fine day
You're gonna want me for your girl

Ooh, now I know you're kind of a boy
Who only wants to run alone
I'll keep waiting
And some day, darling
You'll come to me when you want to settle down

The Dixie Cups, "Chapel of Love" (1964)
(Jeff Barry/Ellie Greenwich/Phil Spector)

Goin' to the chapel
And we're gonna get married
Goin' to the chapel
And we're gonna get married
Gee, I really love you
And we're gonna get married
Goin' to the chapel of love

Bells will ring, the sun will shine, whoa-oh-oh
I'll be his and he'll be mine
We'll love until the end of time
And we'll never be lonely anymore Because we're
Goin' to the chapel
And we're gonna get married…