**WE’VE COME A LONG WAY BABY**

Use the chart on page 271 in the Married and Single Life textbook to compare traditional marriage customs with those of today. Please be sure to compare with reference to the text info but also add information about your own thoughts on the current custom.



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| **PRIOR TO THE 1900’s** | **TODAY** |
| Parental approval before dating was allowed |  |
| Dating only used for serious appraisal of a potential marriage partner |  |
| Dating was mainly done in groups |  |
| Parents chose mates for their children |  |
| Parents chose mates based on social & economical considerations |  |
| Courtship happened within the girl’s home |  |
| Engagements lasted for two or more years |  |
| Marriage was an arrangement between the families |  |
| Parental consent was required for marriage |  |
| Dowries were paid  |  |
| Poor transportation limited options for perspective partners |  |
| Marriage was considered an obligation |  |
| Widows and widowers were expected to re-marry quickly |  |
| Weddings were small private home ceremonies |  |
| Formal invitations were not sent out |  |
| Music was seldom used |  |
| Formal attire was not necessary |  |
| No receptions |  |
| Simple ceremony |  |
| Most brides did not wear a ring |  |
| Public notice of intent to marry was necessary |  |
| Common marriage age was between 16-19 |  |
| Large number of children were expected |  |
| Breach of promise contracts were required due to economic arrangement |  |
| Divorce was infrequent due to the stigma attached |  |