The 1920s

Insulin, penicillin, and a lone flight across the Atlantic.

Medicine got its first miracle drugs, physics found the quantum, and Lindbergh flew alone from New York to Paris.

What rose

1921–22. Insulin is isolated in Toronto and first used to treat diabetes. Source: Insulin

1925–27. Quantum mechanics is formulated by Heisenberg, Schrödinger and others. Source: Quantum mechanics

1927. Lindbergh flies solo across the Atlantic. Source: Charles Lindbergh

1928. Alexander Fleming discovers penicillin. Source: Penicillin

1929. Hubble shows the universe is expanding. Source: Hubble's law

What fell or stalled

The 1929 crash began the Great Depression. Source: Wall Street crash of 1929

Version 1, November 16, 2026. Drafted with AI from public sources and checked against the source linked for each entry. Not yet reviewed by Nicholas Niehaus. Corrections are welcome and are logged publicly.
ascentofthewest.com/years/1920s/