**1950s Vocabulary**

**1. Baby Boom-** An increase in population by almost 30 million people after WWII in the U.S. This spurred a growth in suburbs and three to four children families.

**2. GI Bill (Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944)-** Law passed in 1944 to help returning veterans buy homes and pay for higher education

**3. Conformity-** Change in belief or behavior in order to fit in with a majority group

**4. Suburbs**- Residential area within commuting distance of a city

**5. Middle Class-** Social group between the upper and working classes, commonly have a comfortable standard of living

**6. Blue Collar-** Jobs in fields of manual labor, particularly those requiring protective clothing

**7. White Collar-** Jobs in fields not requiring protective clothing such as sales

**8. Consumerism-** Large-scale buying, much of it on credit.

**9. Interstate Highway Act**-Signed by President Eisenhower in 1956, law that authorized the spending of $32 billion to build 41,000 miles of highway

**10. Sunbelt-** The southern and southwestern states, from the Carolinas to California, characterized by warm climate and recently, rapid population growth

**11. Service sector-** Part of the economy where workers provide services to the people, such as health care, banking, and education, rather than producing a tangible good

**12. Business Franchise**- Allows a company to distribute its products or services through retail outlets owned by independent operators

**13. Nuclear Family-** Household made up of a mother, father, and children.

**14. Prosperity-** Successful, flourishing, or thriving condition- especially financially

**15. Beatniks-**small group of writers and artists criticized what they saw as the growing materialism of American society and its lack of individuality

**16. Leave it to Beaver-** American TV sitcom that showed the idealized suburban family of the mid-20th century

**17. Elvis Presley-** White singer born in 1935 in Tupelo, Mississippi; chief revolutionary of popular music in the 1950s, fused black rhythm and blues with white bluegrass and country styles; created a new musical idiom known forever after as rock and roll

**18. Multinational Corporations**- A large business that operates in more than one nation

**19. Sitcoms-** A genre of comedy centered on a fixed set of characters who carry over from episode to episode

**20. Polio Vaccine-** Developed by Jonas Salk and came into use in 1955, acquired immunity used to prevent the polio virus (reduced the number of cases reported each year worldwide from an estimated 350,000 in 1988 to 37 in 2016)