



# 1960s Counterculture

AKA "Hippies"

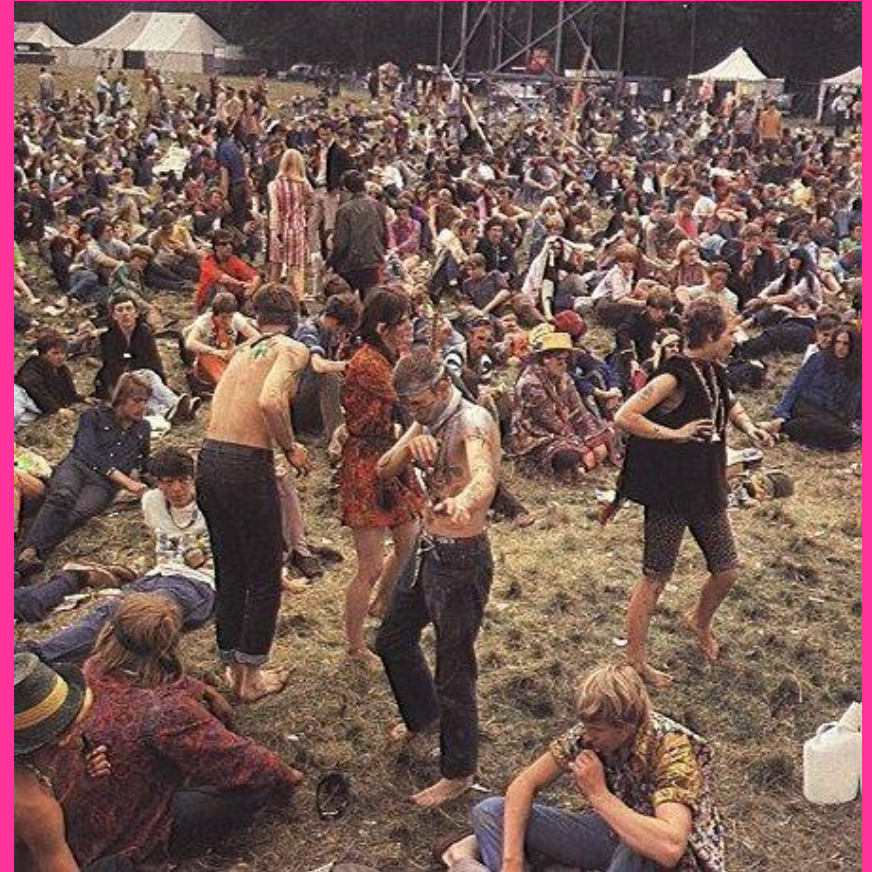
# What is Counterculture?

- Counterculture is any beliefs that go against social norms.
- The 1960s counterculture was heavily influenced by the civil rights movement, the women's rights movement, and the anti-war movement.
- Much of the counterculture, from drug use to sexual promiscuity to music, was a way of rebelling against society



# Appearance and Dress

- Members of the counterculture rejected the “uptight” dress standards of the 1950s.
- They embraced long hair, facial hair, beads, flowers, etc.



# Political Ideals

- Influenced by the civil rights movement, many members of the counterculture embraced the idea of equality for all.
- Members were actively against the war in Vietnam, advocated free speech, and placed emphasis on the environment
- Students were also active in the movement, creating such groups as the Students for a Democratic Society and the New Left.



# Drugs and Sex



- LSD, a hallucinogen, and marijuana were a large part of the counterculture
- Members of the counterculture also rejected the traditional norms of sex, embracing “free love”





# Music


- Music of the counterculture expressed the values of young people at the time: drugs and new sexual behavior
- Folk music (like Bob Dylan) and rock (Jimi Hendrix, the Doors, the Beatles)
- Woodstock, a four day music festival in 1969, was a celebration of these new values. While members of the counterculture applauded the festival as “four days of generosity, peace, great music, liberation, and expanding consciousness”, others saw it as a time of self-indulgence, noise, promiscuity, and illegal drug use.

# Opposition to “dirty hippies”

- Clearly, many were disgusted at the counterculture revolution, calling it a loss of morals and values.
- Areas like San Francisco and Berkeley were written off as “hippie” towns



# Legacy of the counterculture

A photograph of two young women at a protest. They are both holding signs that say "WAR IS OVER!". The woman on the left has long brown hair and is wearing a dark top. The woman on the right has dark hair and is wearing a blue top. In the background, a man in a suit and red tie is visible, looking towards the camera. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting an indoor or nighttime setting.

- “The lesson of the sixties is that people who care enough to do right could change history. We didn’t end racism, but we ended legal segregation. We ended the idea that you could send half a million soldiers around the world to fight a war the people do not support. We ended the idea that women are second-class citizens. We made the environment an issue that couldn’t be avoided. The big battles that we won cannot be reversed. We were young, self-righteous, reckless, hypocritical, brave, silly, headstrong, and scared half to death. And we were right.”
  - Abbie Hoffman (political activist)