

There's More Online!

- ✓ BIOGRAPHY Bob Dylan
- ✓ BIOGRAPHY Tom Hayden
- ✓ BIOGRAPHY Mario Savio
- ✓ PRIMARYSOURCE Counterculture
Political Cartoon
- ✓ VIDEO Students and the
Counterculture
- ✓ VIDEO Turning Up the Volume
- ✓ INTERACTIVE SELF-CHECK
QUIZ



LESSON 1

Students and the Counterculture

- ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS • *What did students, women, and Latinos learn from the civil rights movement and apply to their protest actions?*
- *How has society changed for students, women, and Latinos?*

Reading HELPDESK



Academic Vocabulary

- conformity
- rationality

Content Vocabulary

- counterculture
- hippies
- communes

TAKING NOTES:

Key Ideas and Details

Organizing As you read about the rise of youth culture and activism, use the major headings of this lesson to create an outline similar to the one below.

Students and the Counterculture	
I.	The Rise of the Youth Movement
	A.
	B.
II.	
	A.
	B.

IT MATTERS BECAUSE

The 1960s was one of the most tumultuous decades in American history. The decade also gave birth to a youth movement that challenged the American political system and conventional middle-class values.

The Rise of the Youth Movement

GUIDING QUESTION *How were the protest techniques used by student protesters similar to and different from those of the civil rights movement?*

The roots of the 1960s youth movement stretched back to the 1950s. In the decade after World War II, the country had enjoyed a time of peace and prosperity. Prosperity did not extend to all, however. Some, especially the artists and writers of the beat movement, openly criticized American society. They believed American society had come to value **conformity** over independence and financial gain over spiritual and social advancement. At the same time, the civil rights movement raised serious questions about racism in American society. The nuclear arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union made many of the nation's youth fear for the future. For many young people, the events of the 1950s had called into question the wisdom of their parents and their political leaders.

The youth movement originated with the baby boomers, the huge generation born after World War II. By 1970, 58.2 percent of the American population was under 35 years old. The economic boom of the 1950s meant more families could afford to send their children to college. College life gave young people a sense of freedom and independence. It was on college campuses across the nation that youth protest movements began and reached their peak.

Students for a Democratic Society

Young people were concerned about the injustices they saw in the nation's political and social system. In their view, a small, wealthy elite controlled politics, and wealth was unfairly divided. These young people formed what came to be known as the New Left.

PHOTOS: (l to r) Bettmann/COBIS, David Fenton/Archive Photos/Getty Images, Vince Striano/Encyclopedia/COBIS, Bill Ray/Time & Life Pictures/Getty Images, Popperfoto/Getty Images

A prominent organization within the New Left was Students for a Democratic Society (SDS). It defined its views in a 1962 declaration known as the Port Huron Statement. Written largely by Tom Hayden, editor of the University of Michigan's student newspaper, the declaration called for an end to apathy and urged citizens to stop accepting a country run by big corporations and big government.

PRIMARY SOURCE

“... [H]uman degradation, symbolized by the Southern struggle against racial bigotry... the Cold War, symbolized by the presence of the Bomb, brought awareness that we ourselves, and our friends, and millions of abstract ‘others’... might die at any time....”

Our work is guided by the sense that we may be the last generation in the experiment with living.”

—from the Port Huron Statement, 1962

SDS chapters focused on protesting the Vietnam War and other issues, including poverty, campus regulations, nuclear power, and racism.

The Free Speech Movement

Another movement that captured the nation's attention in the 1960s was the free speech movement, led by Mario Savio and others at the University of California at Berkeley. The movement began in the fall of 1964, when the university decided to restrict students' rights to distribute literature and to recruit volunteers for political causes on campus.

Like many college students, those at Berkeley were dissatisfied with practices at their university. Huge classes were divided into sections and taught by graduate students. Many professors claimed they were too busy with research to meet with students. Faceless administrators made rules that were not always easy to obey and imposed punishments for violations. Feeling isolated in this impersonal environment, many Berkeley students rallied to support the free speech movement.

The struggle between Berkeley's students and administrators peaked on December 2, 1964, with a sit-in and powerful speech by Savio. Early the next morning, 600 police officers entered the campus and arrested more than 700 protesters. The arrests set off an even larger protest movement. Within days, a campus-wide strike had stopped classes. Many members of the faculty voiced their support for the free speech movement. In the face of this growing opposition, the administration gave in to the students' demands.

Soon afterward, the Supreme Court upheld students' rights to freedom of speech and assembly on campuses. In a unanimous vote, the Court upheld the section of the Civil Rights Act assuring these rights in places offering public accommodations, which, by definition, included college campuses. The Berkeley revolt became a model for other student protests in the 1960s. The tactics used by the Berkeley protesters were soon being used in college demonstrations across the country.

READING PROGRESS CHECK

Comparing and Contrasting What techniques did the students on the Berkeley campus use to protest for free speech?

conformity agreement in form, manner, or character

Members of SDS protest the Vietnam War.

CRITICAL THINKING

Identifying Central Ideas What are two issues that led to the activism of the members of SDS?



The Counterculture

GUIDING QUESTION How did the counterculture movement affect the nation?

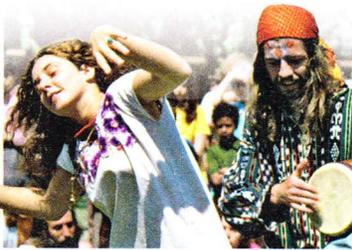
While many young Americans in the 1960s sought to reform the system, others rejected it entirely. They tried to create a new lifestyle based on flamboyant dress, rock music, drug use, and communal living. They created what became known as the **counterculture**, and the people were commonly called “**hippies**.”

counterculture a culture with values and beliefs different from those of the mainstream

hippies name for young Americans, especially during the 1960s, who rejected the conventions of established society

rationality the quality or state of being agreeable to reason

communes group living arrangements in which members share everything and work together



Members of the counterculture often rejected the expectations of mainstream society.

▶ CRITICAL THINKING

Making Inferences How does the style of dress shown express the counterculture’s way of thinking?

Hippie Culture

Originally, hippies rejected **rationality**, order, and traditional middle-class values. They wanted to build a utopia—a society that was freer, closer to nature, and full of love, tolerance, and cooperation. Many hippies wanted to drop out of society by leaving home. They wanted to live together in **communes**—group living arrangements in which members shared everything and worked together. Much of this was a reaction to the 1950s stereotype of the white-collar “man in the gray flannel suit” who led a constricted and colorless life. Singer-songwriter Bob Dylan expressed the counterculture beliefs through his lyrics:

PRIMARY SOURCE

“Come mothers and fathers throughout the land/and don’t criticize what you can’t understand/Your sons and your daughters are beyond your command/Your old road is rapidly agin’/Please get out of the new one if you can’t lend your hand/for the times they are a-changin’”

—from “The Times They Are A-Changin’,” 1964

The Impact of the Counterculture

After a few years, the counterculture movement began to decline. The fashion and music of the counterculture, however, continued to affect American culture. More individualized dressing, including strands of beads, ragged blue jeans, and long hair for men, became generally accepted. Counterculture musicians made use of folk music and the rhythms of rock ‘n’ roll. They wrote heartfelt lyrics that expressed the hopes and fears of their generation. Folk singers included Bob Dylan, who became an important voice of the movement, as did singers Joan Baez and Pete Seeger. Rock musicians included Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, and The Who. The music and innovations of these artists continue to influence musicians today.

✓ READING PROGRESS CHECK

Making Connections What kind of society did the counterculture want to build?

LESSON 1 REVIEW



Reviewing Vocabulary

- 1. Naming** Why were young people who rebelled against mainstream society called the “counterculture”?
- 2. Summarizing** What did “conformity” mean to hippies in the 1960s?

Using Your Notes

- 3. Making Connections** Use the notes that you completed during the lesson to describe the relationship between student protesters and the hippies.

Answering the Guiding Questions

- 4. Comparing and Contrasting** How were the protest techniques used by student protesters similar to and different from those of the civil rights movement?
- 5. Synthesizing** How did the counterculture movement affect the nation?

Writing Activity

- 6. INFORMATIVE/EXPLANATORY** Suppose that you are a mainstream journalist in the late 1960s. Write a newspaper article about hippies. Describe their hair, clothes, values, and living arrangements.