

Counterculture of the 1960s

Vocabulary

Repeat each vocabulary word and definition after the teacher.

- **Counterculture** An anti-establishment culture
- **Anti-establishment** Against the traditional culture or government authority
- **Phenomenon** Something that happens that it's hard to explain why
- **Spread** To extend something over a large area, or become very popular
- **Hotbed** An environment which promotes the growth of something
- **Social tensions** A form of disorder caused by a group of people
- **Flow along** To move in a smooth way
- **Authority** The person or government agency having power and control
- **Differing interpretations** Explaining something completely different ways
- **Within** Inside
- **Assassination** The public killing of a government official or an organization leader
- **The draft** Mandatory military service, in the U.S. it was done by a lottery
- **Mucha'da** “Much of the“ (pronounced quickly)
- **Define'da** “Define the“ (pronounced quickly)

Passage

Read the passage with the teacher, asking questions about content, and then answer the questions on the next page.

The **counterculture** of the 1960s refers to an **anti-establishment** cultural **phenomenon** that developed first in the United Kingdom and the United States and then **spread** throughout **much of the** Western world between the early 1960s and the mid-1970s, with London, New York City, and San Francisco being **hotbeds** of early **countercultural** activity. As the 1960s progressed, widespread **social tensions** also developed concerning other issues, and tended to **flow along** generational lines regarding women's rights, traditional modes of **authority**, and **differing interpretations** of the American Dream. Many key movements related to these issues were born or advanced **within** the **counterculture** of the 1960s. Many bands and singers such as The Beatles, Pink Floyd, Jimi Hendrix, and Bob Dylan as well as many other creative artists, authors, and thinkers helped **define the counterculture** movement. The **counterculture** era grew most popular with the **assassination** of John F. Kennedy in November 1963. It became absorbed into the popular culture with the end of U.S. military involvement in Southeast Asia and the end of **the draft** in 1973, and lastly with President Richard Nixon ending his presidential term voluntarily in August 1974.

Courtesy of Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/Counterculture_of_the_1960s

Checking Understanding

1. What is counterculture?
2. Which cities were hotbeds of Western counterculture activity?
3. What were some issues lead to social tensions in the 1960s?
4. What were some popular bands that helped to define the counterculture movement?
5. When did counterculture become most popular?
6. When did counterculture become absorbed into the popular culture?
7. How to pronounce “Much of the” quickly?
8. How to pronounce “Define the” quickly?

Conversation Questions

Take turns asking the questions with your teacher, and if there's any time left over you can free chat

- What are some things that define a culture? What do you think would define counterculture?
- Do you like a lot of the bands from the 1960s? What are some of the others you like from then?
- Do you think you're part of your country's counterculture?
- Is there more than one culture in your country?
- Is there anything about your culture that you'd like to see changed?
- What are some things in your country that cause social tensions?
- Do you think culture is important?
- How do young people in your country have a different culture than the older people?
- What do you think happened with the assassination of John F. Kennedy?
- Does your country have a draft or mandatory military service?
- When people from other countries think about your culture what do they usually think about first?
- Have you ever been confused by the actions of someone from another culture?
- What about your culture are you most proud of?
- Are there any foreign cultures that you admire?
- Have you ever experienced culture shock?