

The Counterculture: Psychedelic Music, Art & Fashion

- I. After WWII, the U.S. economy grew and a huge spike in the birth rate (called the _____)
 - a. By the middle of the 1960s, most of these kids were young adults.

- II. These “Baby Boomers” began to question & challenge their parents and society’s norms.

- III. Baby Boomers & the **Counterculture**
 - a. DEFINE: “**COUNTERCULTURE**”: _____

 - b. What did the counterculture oppose? What did they value?

OPPOSED (against)	VALUE (support)

IV. Older generation vs. Counterculture



What do you notice about the “normal” 1950s family?



What do you notice about this family?

V. Rejection of the old - counterculture fashion

- a. The suits, sweater vests, corsets and designer dresses of the 1950s-1960s were rejected by members of the counterculture.
 - i. What fashions did they prefer?

VI. Rejection of the old - drug use & experimentation

- a. For many members of the counterculture, drug use was _____

- b. Drugs were thought to help loosen people up & help them think differently
- c. To the hippies (members of the counterculture), not all drugs were equal...
 - i. What drugs were seen as good/bad drugs? (LIST)

Good drugs	Bad drugs

1. What's the difference? If a drug expanded your mind, it was good. If the drug dulled your senses, it was bad.

d. Marijuana

- i. Emerged as the most popular drug for youth in the '60s.
- ii. By the early 1970s, 60% of college students had reportedly used marijuana.
- iii. What was the appeal of marijuana?

e. **LSD** – origins

- i. Created in 1938 by a pharmaceutical company with what goal? _____
_____ It did NOT work for that but they did discover it did what?
_____ when absorbed through the skin.

- ii. By the early 1960s, LSD was being tested on adults and kids in the hopes that it could possibly cure psychological problems. (IT DIDN'T)
- iii. According to LSD supporters (like Ken Kesey & the Merry Pranksters), what power DID LSD hold?

VII. Influence of drugs on the music & art of the 1960s

- a. Characteristics of **Psychedelic Rock**
 - i. created or played under the influence of LSD
 - ii. feedback/distortion on guitars & lots of instrumental solos/jams
 - iii. more complex songs than in the 1950s and early 1960s
 - iv. lyrics often sounded like poetry and/or encouraged drug use
- b. EXAMPLE: The Beatles, "I Am the Walrus"
 - i. Look at the characteristics of psychedelic rock listed above. Why might someone say this is an example of psychedelic rock?

- c. DESCRIBE: How do album covers of this genre also have a psychedelic feel?



d. The Grateful Dead

e. Jefferson Airplane

- i. Formed in 1965 and lived together in the Haight-Ashbury district (hippie section of San Francisco)
- ii. Their song, “White Rabbit,” was inspired by Lewis Carroll’s *Alice in Wonderland*, urged listeners to use drugs.
 - 1. How do they connect the story of Alice in Wonderland to LSD use?

f. The Beatles

- i. In June 1967, the Beatles released their *Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band* album.
- ii. CONSIDER: Why might someone say that “Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds” has something to do with LSD?



- iii. CONSIDER: The Beatles, *Yellow Submarine*

- 1. Who/what do the following characters represent?

- a. The Boob: _____
- b. Robin, the Butterfly stomper: _____
- c. The apple bonkers: _____
- d. The terrible flying glove: _____
- e. Blue Meanie: _____
- f. The Beatles: _____

- 2. What is the overall message of *Yellow Submarine*? _____

g. **Jimi Hendrix**

h. **Woodstock** (August 15-17, 1969)

- i. 3 day music festival held in Bethel, NY.
- ii. Between 400,000-500,000 young people attended.
- iii. In spite of overcrowding, rain, mud and a lack of restroom facilities, the festival was peaceful and became a defining moment of the '60s.
 - 1. WHY? HOW SO?

VIII. The tide turns on LSD

- a. In 1965, the manufacturer stopped producing LSD in 1965.
 - i. Production continued with underground chemists and dealers = DANGEROUS
- b. State and fed. govt began making LSD possession and distribution illegal.

IX. **Altamont Free Festival** (Dec. 6, 1969): a 1 day music festival sponsored by the Rolling Stones. It was meant to carry on the legacy of Woodstock but it did NOT go as planned... LIST 2 things that went wrong at the concert:

- 1.

- 2.

X. **Decline of the Psychedelic Era:**

- a. The many LSD mental breakdowns and deaths began to change what the public thought about LSD
 - i. Lots of negative news stories
 - ii. Deaths of famous people (Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys, Syd Barrett of Pink Floyd, Brian Jones of the Rolling Stones)
 - iii. Increasing number of overdoses on pills and/or heroin (Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, etc.)