

EXPLORE THE '60s

LEARNING UNIT: CULTURE & INFLUENCE

STUDENT PRE-ACTIVITY

INTRODUCTION:

In this learning unit, we will examine important aspects of 1960s culture that truly transformed people in the United States and all over the world. Let's consider some key questions that will help us think about how we define a culture, and what the culture was like in the 1960s.

Write or discuss with others your answers to the questions below.

- 1 What comes to mind first when we speak/write the word culture?
- 2 Think about your personal life. Can you identify five things that make you who you are? Why?
- 3 Think of at least three things that help us define our culture?

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STUDENT PRE-ACTIVITY OPTION #2

Imagine you are a peaceful alien from outer space, here on Earth on an anthropological mission to spend a few days researching life in your community and school. Answer the following:

What is unique, different, or interesting about your school and community?

What explains why humans in your community and in your school think and act the way they do?

What is important to human beings?

Why are some things about human beings the same, and why are some things different?

Why don't all people think and act the same way?

What are rules? How are they learned?

What shapes how human beings see the world, themselves, and others?

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STUDENT ACTIVITY 1: DEFINE YOUR CULTURE

Everyone has a culture. It shapes how we see the world, ourselves, and others. Let's consider just ten years in our history. The 1960s were a complex time in history, marked by the social issues and large-scale movements of a divided nation. We saw how the sentiments of counter-culture youth in response to these social issues were a demonstration of democracy and paramount to the Cultural Revolution that took place, which could be seen across many aspects of daily life (fashion, music, writing, protests, etc).

Using the below definition of culture identified in this lesson, explore on your own, or in a group, the things that define YOUR generation?

Culture: 'Social behavior and norms found in human societies, as well as the knowledge, beliefs, arts, laws, customs, capabilities, and habits of the individuals in these groups.'

First: Break down this definition of culture into words and terms that you are most comfortable with.

To start, try answering the questions below or on a sheet of paper (feel free to sketch/draw your ideas).

1. What is an example of a social behavior? _____

2. What does norm mean? What is an example of a social norm? _____

3. What might be an example of the general knowledge of your school peers? What do you think are prevalent beliefs and customs or habits? _____

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Next: Let's try listing or drawing your responses to the following questions about culture.

When I think of politics or my personal political views, I feel....	My favorite type of food is.... Most days, I cook or eat...	When I think of our Earth/planet, I feel....
My favorite song is....	The style of clothes I wear can be described as...	In the past month, I watched _____ on tv/streaming...
My favorite band/musical act is....	I like to read _____ (book, magazine, blog, comic)	My MOST used social media networks are.... (Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, Facebook) list all.

If you had to come up with 2-3 sentences to help define YOUR generation, what would you write? *(answer below)*

My generation is _____ . We are known for liking _____, watching _____, listening to music like _____ . The following political issues are most important to us _____, _____, _____ and _____ .

What do you think the culture was like for the adults in your life? *(answer below)*

Adults in my life liked _____, listened to _____, ate food such as, _____ and felt the following issues were important _____ .