

Objectives

- Describe the rise of the counterculture.
- List the major characteristics of the counterculture.
- Evaluate the impact of the counterculture on American values and society.



Terms and People

- **counterculture** – a movement in which people adopted values that ran counter to the mainstream culture
- **generation gap** – a lack of understanding and communication between the older and younger generations
- **Beatles** – a hugely popular British rock band that spearheaded the cultural revolution of the 1960s

Terms and People (continued)

- **commune** – a small community whose residents have common interests and share resources
- **Haight-Ashbury** – a center of the counterculture in San Francisco, California
- **Timothy Leary** – a political radical who preached that drugs could free the mind



What was the counterculture, and what impact did it have on American society?

In the 1960s, youths rebelled against long-standing customs in dress, music, and personal behavior.

The counterculture both challenged traditional values and unleashed a movement to reassert basic values.



In the 1960s,
many young people
joined the
counterculture
movement,
rebellious against
their parents'
values and
traditions.

The counterculture arose from several influences.

the Beat movement of the 1950s, which rejected materialism

the civil rights movement, prompted people to question traditional boundaries

the Vietnam antiwar movement, which introduced the idea of social and political protest

Four main elements defined the counterculture.



- Rock-and-roll music
- The sexual revolution
- A belief that drugs could free the mind
- An interest in spirituality

Rock-and-roll music and folk music became forces for social and cultural change.

The **Beatles**, a British rock group, changed the look and lifestyles of the baby boomer generation.

Folk singers such as Bob Dylan wrote protest songs to highlight the civil rights and peace movements.



The counterculture rejected many traditional restrictions on behavior.

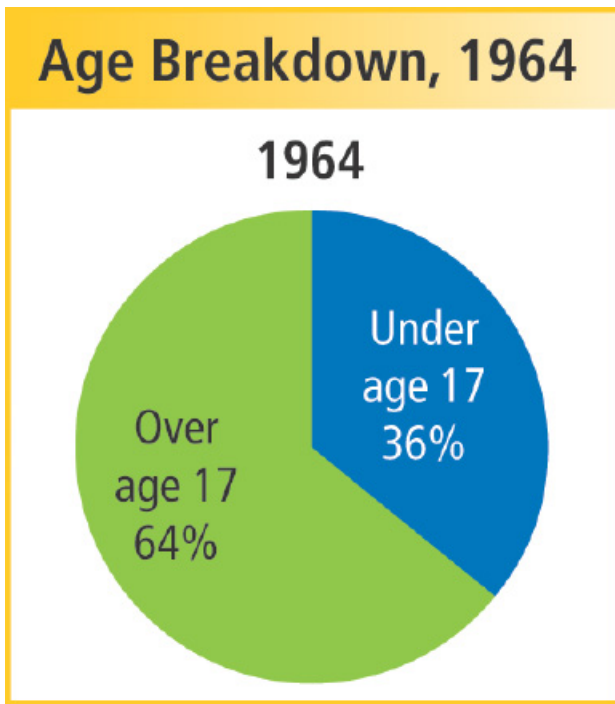
- The sexual revolution called for the separation of sex from traditional family life.
- Some people lived together in **communes**: small communities of “hippies” who shared common interests and resources.
- Many hippies believed that drugs could free the mind.

Members of the counterculture also explored different avenues of spirituality.

- Many hippies sought religious experiences outside Judeo-Christian traditions.
- They explored Eastern religions, such as Buddhism, or sought harmony with nature.



Differences in values created a **generation gap** between young people and their parents.



The baby boomer generation **distrusted tradition and authority.**

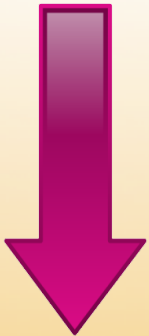
In the mid-1960s, more than a third of the U.S. population was under 17. They became a force for social change.

The counterculture had some positive effects on American society.



- Many young people **rejected materialism**.
- Groups such as women and the physically challenged **sought equality**.
- Colleges and universities began to offer **multicultural programs of study**.

The negative aspects of the countercultural movement brought about its end.



- **Drug addiction** and overdose deaths rose.
- **Violence** at a Rolling Stones concert contradicted the hippies' message of peace and love.
- Many people believed the counterculture had become **shallow and self-centered**.

Section Review

QuickTake Quiz



Know It, Show It Quiz

