

The Hippy Movement

☺ Definition ☺

The hippie movement, (also spelled hippy) during the 1960s and 1970s, is a movement that **rejected the mores of mainstream American life**. The movement originated on college campuses in the United States, although it spread to other countries, including Canada and Britain.

☺ Precursors ☺



William S. Burroughs, Allen Ginsberg and Jack Kerouac: these three people belonged to a group of artists and writers in the 1950s who started a literary and artistic movement challenging traditional patterns of responsibility by **shocking Americans with their open sexuality and drug use**.

Can you remember the name of this movement?

☺ Hippy Lifestyle ☺

Hippies felt **alienated from middle-class society**, which they saw as dominated by **materialism and repression**, and they developed their own distinctive lifestyle. Hippies commonly took up communal or cooperative living arrangements, and they often adopted **vegetarian diets** based on **unprocessed foods** and practiced **holistic medicine**. (...) Hippies tended to be **dropouts from society**, **forgoing** regular jobs and careers, although some developed small businesses that catered to other hippies.

*List a few **physical characteristics** which enable to identify a hippy.*

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☮ Other principles of life ☮

Hippies advocated nonviolence and love, a popular phrase being ".....", for which they were sometimes called "flower children." They promoted openness and tolerance as alternatives to the restrictions and regimentation they saw in middle-class society.

Hippies often practiced open sexual relationships and lived in various types of family groups. They commonly sought spiritual guidance from sources outside the Judeo-Christian tradition, particularly Buddhism and other Eastern religions, and sometimes in various combinations.

Astrology was popular, and the period was often referred to as the Hippies promoted the recreational use of hallucinogenic drugs, particularly marijuana and LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide), in so-called head trips, justifying the practice as a way of expanding consciousness.

☮ Music and cinema ☮

Both folk and rock music were an integral part of hippie culture. Singers such as and and groups such as the, Grateful Dead, Jefferson Airplane, and were among those most closely identified with the movement.

The musical *Hair*, a celebration of the hippie lifestyle, opened on Broadway in 1968, and the film *Easy Rider*, which reflected hippie values and aesthetics, appeared in 1969.

Can you identify these four musical references from the 1960s?



☮ Gatherings ☮

Public gatherings — part music festivals, sometimes protests, often simply excuses for celebrations of life—were an important part of the hippie movement. The first "be-in," called the **Gathering of the Tribes**, was held in San Francisco in 1967.

A three-day music festival known as **Woodstock**, held in rural New York state in 1969, drew an estimated 400,000-500,000 people and became virtually synonymous with the movement.

Hippies participated in a number of **teach-ins** at colleges and universities in which **opposition to the Vietnam War** was explained, and they took part in **antiwar protests and marches**. They joined other protestors in the "**moratorium**"—a nationwide demonstration—against the war in 1969. They were **involved in the development of the environmental movement**. The first Earth Day was held in 1970.

Based on what you have understood so far, can you explain the concepts of "be-in" and "teach-in"?

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Gathering of the Tribes be-in,
San Francisco, California, 1967



Woodstock Festival,
Woodstock, New York State, 1969

☺ **Petering out of the movement** ☺

By the mid-1970s the movement had **waned** in favour of the punk movement, and by the 1980s hippies had given way to a new generation of young people who were intent on making careers for themselves in business and who came to be known as **yuppies** (young urban professionals). Nonetheless, hippies continued to have an influence on the wider culture, seen, for example, in more relaxed attitudes toward sex, in the new concern for the environment, and in a widespread lessening of formality.

Yuppies in the 1980s

Punks in the 1970s

