**AMERICANS FIGHT FOR THEIR RIGHTS**

Americans living through the 1960’s saw the power of protests, as the Civil Rights Movement and Anti-War Movement both caused dramatic changes in America. Inspired by these examples and unhappy with their own status, other groups began to organize and push for change in the late 1960’s and 70’s.

***THE WOMEN’S RIGHTS MOVEMENT***

The Women’s Rights Movement traced back to the mid 1800’s, and had peaked in 1919 when women won the right to vote. Since then, women had experienced bursts of independence, such as flappers during the 1920’s or factory workers during World War II, but for the most part, women were expected to stay home and raise the children. If they were single, they were allowed to work only specific jobs such as being secretaries or teachers, where they were paid less than men, were often talked down to or sexually harassed, and had to quit if they got married or pregnant. Largely inspired by the Civil Rights Movement, the Women’s Rights Movements was re-energized during the 1960’s. The idea of “feminism” took hold – the belief that women deserved the same political, economic, and social opportunities as men.

**THE BIRTH CONTROL PILL**

Though women had tried to keep working after WWII, if they got pregnant, they lost their job and were virtually required to stay home the rest of their lives. Meanwhile, their husbands did not have to change a single aspect of their lives or careers. However, with the invention of “The Pill” in 1960, women were now empowered to decide when to get pregnant and how many children to have. Women could view sex the same way men always had – as something that they could participate in without risking the loss of their own personal freedom and goals. This scientific breakthrough (which was funded by a woman), helped to level the balance of power between men and women, which of course upset some men and conservative females. With their new-found freedom, women launched the Women’s Rights Movement during the ‘60’s.

**N.O.W. (NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF WOMEN)**

Launched in 1966, NOW quickly became a powerful and prominent voice for women’s rights. Modeling its goals and actions off the African American Civil Rights Movement, NOW organized protests, boycotts, and speeches, and pressured lawmakers to grant women the same opportunities as men. NOW’s official ‘Statement of Purpose’, reads: “*The purpose of NOW is to take action to bring women into full participation in the mainstream of American society, exercising all the privileges and responsibilities thereof in truly equal partnership with men.”* Early NOW members were often laughed at, insulted, and harassed by most men, though just as more and more white people joined the Civil Rights Movement as the 60’s progressed, more and more men began to publically support NOW by the 1970’s. NOW still exists today.

**TITLE IX (9)**

In 1972, a new Education Law was passed. In it, Title IX (section 9) required that any institution receiving tax dollars (such as public schools) had to spend their money fairly between men and women. The most famous example of this is seen today in school sports. Before 1972, most schools did not provide any sports programs for girls. Now, rules require that an equal number of sports be offered to both genders, and everything – equipment, training facilities, practice times, locker rooms, coaches’ salaries, etc. – be of equal quality as well. As it was implemented (put in place), Title IX was controversial because many schools had to cut some male sports in order to add female sports and still stay within their budget.

**ROE VS. WADE**

This 1973 Supreme Court Case is still highly controversial today. In Roe vs. Wade, the Supreme Court ruled that an abortion – ending an unwanted pregnancy – was legal. Many women fought for this right in the 1960’s and 70’s. They had many arguments, such as how unfair it would be to require a woman who was violently raped to carry her attacker’s baby for 9 months, possibly lose her job for being pregnant, then have to endure the physical pain of childbirth for an unwanted baby. Opponents of abortion argued that it was never okay to kill another person, and that an unborn baby is still a person who deserves a chance to live. Both sides make good points, and abortion is a *very* controversial topic today. Democrats tend to support “freedom of choice” or allowing a woman to decide for herself, while Republicans tend to support the “right to life” and want government laws against abortion. In 1973, many women cheered this decision as a victory for their right to make their own personal decisions about their own mental and physical health.

**THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (E.R.A.)**

During the 1970’s, support built for adding a new amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would ensure women were always treated equally to men. It read: “*Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.”*  In order to add another amendment to the Constitution, it must not only pass both houses of Congress with 2/3’s of the votes, but then be approved by 3/4’s of all the states. Conservative Americans rallied to block the Amendment, claiming it was unnecessary and could lead to gay marriage, women drafted into the army, and single-sex public bathrooms. To the shock of many, the Equal Rights Amendment came 3 states short of passing in 1982. Today there is still strong support for adding the Amendment, as many cite how the average man still earns more money than the average woman, and fears of gay marriage, female soldiers, and single-sex bathrooms no longer worry most citizens.

**Phyllis Schlafly’s Eagle Forum Opposes the ERA**

1. ERA would take away legal rights that women possessed – *not* confer any new rights on women
2. ERA would take away women’s traditional exemption from military conscription and also from military combat duty
3. ERA would take away the traditional benefits in the law for wives, widows, and mothers. ERA would make unconstitutional the laws, which then existed in every state, that impose on a husband the obligation to support his wife…

4. ERA’s impact on education would take away rights from women students, upset many customs and practices, and bring government intrusion into private schools.

 5. ERA would put abortion rights into the U.S. Constitution, and make abortion funding a

new constitutional right

6. ERA would put “gay rights” into the U.S. Constitution, because the word in the

Amendment is “sex” not women.

***LATINOS***

Latinos, or people from the Spanish-speaking Latin American nations south of the United States, faced significant discrimination of their own in America before the 1960’s. They also faced segregation and high rates of unemployment and poverty, especially in the American southwest (Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California). Many could only find work picking fruit and vegetables on large farms, whose owners often took advantage of their poverty and weak English skills to work them long hours for less than minimum wage.

**CESAR CHAVEZ**

Cesar Chavez emerged in the 1960’s as a leader of the Latino Civil Rights Movement. Chavez pushed for the right to form a Union, meaning all farm workers would work together to demand better pay and working conditions from their employers. He faced strong resistance, but fought back using non-violence. For example, Chavez organized a boycott of grapes when grape companies refused to treat their farm workers fairly. The boycott lasted for 5 years until grape companies, losing money, agreed to allow their workers to Unionize. Chavez also went on a 25-day hunger strike, refusing to eat until workers were treated more fairly. He lost 35 pounds and brought national attention to his cause. Chavez also led a farm workers march to Sacramento, the capital of California. The United Farm Workers (UFW), a Union that works for fair treatment of America’s farm workers, was a result of Cesar Chavez’s efforts and still exists today. Cesar Chavez Day is celebrated every March 31st in California and 7 other states.

**THE IMMIGRATION & NATIONALITY ACT OF 1965**

America has had a long and complicated history with immigration. In response to the surge of immigration in the 1920’s after WWI, America passed the Quota Acts, which gave each foreign country a different specific number of immigrants we would allow in each year. Nations with non-white populations (such as those in Africa, Asia, and Latin America) were given low numbers or even “zeros”. This law remained in effect until 1965, when the Civil Rights Movement and President Johnson’s “Great Society” efforts made the Quota Acts look embarrassingly racist. As part of his “Great Society”, Lyndon Johnson and Congress passed the Immigration & Nationality Act of 1965. This new law abolished (ended) immigration quotas and instead used the immigrants’ work skills, education, and family ties to America as the primary reasons to accept new immigrants. One of the most notable effects of this more open immigration policy was the increase in Asian and Latino immigration to America. Latino immigration increased dramatically during the 70s, 80s, 90s and 2000s.

**BILINGUAL EDUCATION ACT**

Other successes included the 1968 Bilingual Education Act, which required that schools make efforts to provide English-language assistance to immigrants, rather than segregating them or ignoring them. Today this program is called ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages). This was part of a broader push to make sure that all students had equal access to the best education possible, and were not ignored or discriminated against.

***THE GAY RIGHTS MOVEMENT***

In the 1950’s being gay was widely thought to be a mental illness similar to being insane or an alcoholic. National and state laws were passed to outlaw public and private displays of affection between gay people and requiring gays to be fired from their jobs for being “mentally unstable” and “security risks”. In 1953 President Dwight Eisenhower signed Executive Order 10450, banning gay people from holding government jobs or serving in the military. Most gay people chose to hide their true feelings and forced themselves to live a lie by acting straight (often referred to as being “in the closet”). However, inspired by the Civil Rights Movement, the 1960’s saw the rise of the Gay Rights Movement, which is still very much active today and gaining increased support for gay rights and gay marriage.

**NEW YORK CITY “SIP-INS”**

In New York, it was illegal to serve alcohol to gay people (yes, you read that correctly). Imitating the success of the Civil Rights Sit-Ins, members of the gay community staged a “Sip-In” at a New York City bar. They sat down at the bar, identified themselves as gay, and politely asked to be served a drink. When they were denied service and kicked out, they sued the bar. Though no laws were immediately changed, the Sip-In brought attention to discriminatory laws and the emerging Gay Rights Movement. Today this law no longer exists.

**STONEWALL INN**

Stonewall Inn was an underground gay bar in Greenwich Village, Connecticut. In 1969, police raided the bar at 1 am, destroying property and trying to arrest all the customers in an effort to “clean up the city”. The customers fought back, leading to 3-days of fights and arrests on the streets of Greenwich Village. The media chose to give very little attention to the Stonewall Inn raid and riots, as they did not sympathize with the gay community like they did with the Black community. However, the unfair and unconstitutional Stonewall Inn raids are now credited with truly inspiring the beginning of the organized Gay Rights Movement in America.

**POLITICAL ACTION & BREAKTHROUGHS**

In 1979, imitating the success of Martin Luther King’s 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, the Gay Rights Movement organized the March on Washington for Gay Rights. Responding to the March and trying to stay true to their reputation as the party of Civil Rights, in 1980, the Democrats became the first (and still only) political party to officially support equal rights for gay Americans.

**YOU ARE LIVING THROUGH IT…**

In 2010, Barack Obama ordered that gays be allowed to openly serve in the military. In 2012, Maryland became the 9th state to allow gay marriage. In the summer of 2015, the Supreme Court ruled that gay marriage must be legal in all 50 states. It would seem like the fight is over, but conservative Republicans are trying to pass “religious freedom” laws that allow people to discriminate against gay people if being gay offends their “deeply held religious beliefs”. These republicans want to be able to refuse service to gay customers or fire employees who are gay. This is still legal is over 20 U.S. states.

***NATIVE AMERICANS***

Perhaps no group has been more ignored throughout U.S. history than Native Americans. While most school children learn that Native Americans were forced onto reservations in the 1800’s, few realize that these reservations still exist today, and that Native Americans living there struggle with extreme poverty, unemployment, depression, high dropout rates, and alcoholism. The spirit of the 1960’s inspired some Native Americans to organize and demand changes.

**AMERICAN INDIAN MOVEMENT (AIM)**

In the 1960’s, some Native Americans formed the American Indian Movement (AIM) to protest their treatment by the U.S. government. They organized protests and marches to bring attention to the fact that the U.S. had violated ever single treaty ever signed with Native Americans since America had become a nation in 1776. AIM wanted the original terms of those violated treaties recognized, with all of the promised lands returned to them. However, America had evolved so much that it was essentially impossible to honor all the terms of old treaties. As a result, some Native American protests turned ugly, and their Movement did not experience much success.

* In 1969, 79 Native Americans took over Alcatraz Island off of the coast of San Francisco, California. The island, which used to serve as a prison, was not currently in use, so the Native Americans chose to use it to make a statement about land rights. The U.S. government demanded that they leave, but they refused. By late May, the government had cut off all electrical power and telephone service to the island. In 1971, a large force of government officers raided Alcatraz and removed the Native Americans from the island.
* In 1972, AIM leaders organized a March on Washington D.C. to protest the U.S. government’s violation of treaties with Native Americans. Upset with the lack of results, 500 AIM members took over the Bureau of Indian Affairs building and destroyed property and treaties. Millions of dollars of damage was done before the protestors were removed or arrested.
* In 1973, AIM members took over the town of Wounded Knee, South Dakota. The town was chosen due to its symbolic importance as the sight of the terrible Wounded Knee Massacre in 1890, when U.S. troops had fired on hundreds of Native Americans performing a religious “ghost dance” on their reservation. The FBI surrounded the AIM members, and a 71-day stand-off ensued. Shots were fired from both sides, and 2 Native Americans were killed. The stand-off ended when the U.S. government promised to revisit old treaties to see if Natives could receive a more fair deal. Nothing of significance was ever agreed to.

**Counter Culture Movement**

In the 1960s, the themes of Dylan’s lyrics resonated with millions of young people, as well as with many of their elders. They considered the racial discrimination, riots, poverty, and political assassinations occurring in the United States and concluded that society had to change. As some people experimented with new ways of living, they redefined old ideals, such as freedom and democracy, on their own terms. They created a counterculture—a group (young adults and rebellious teens) with ideas and behaviors very different from those of the mainstream culture.

**An Emerging Counterculture Rejects the Establishment**

In another form of rebellion against social expectations, many young people dropped out of school and rejected the “rat race” of nine-to-five jobs. Known as hippies, they developed a counterculture seeking freedom of expression. Shunning conventions, hippies dressed in jeans, colorful tie-dyed T-shirts, sandals, and necklaces called love beads. They wore their hair long and gave up shaving or wearing makeup. Many lived on handouts from their parents, by begging, or by taking short-term jobs.

Although no organization united members of the counterculture, a number of beliefs did. One was distrust of the Establishment, their term for the people and institutions who, in their view, controlled society. Another was the sentiment embodied in the counterculture motto of “never trust anyone over 30.” Members of the counterculture also shared the belief that love was more important than money.

Many members of the counterculture rejected political activism in favor of “personal liberation.” As one hippie put it, “Human beings need total freedom. That’s where God is at. We need to shed hypocrisy, dishonesty, and phoniness and go back to the purity of our childhood values.” **Hippies** talked of creating a new age of peace and love in which everyone was free to “do your own thing.”

In the late 1960s, counterculture members of the Youth International Party, known as **yippies**, tried to combine their hippie lifestyle with New Left politics. Led by Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin, the yippies attracted media attention by carrying out amusing pranks. In one of them, they poked fun at the Establishment’s love of money by throwing dollar bills off the balcony of the New York Stock Exchange. As the money floated down, the stock traders below dropped their work to scramble for free cash. Hoffman called such stunts “commercials for the revolution.”

**A Generation Gap Opens Between Rebellious Youth and their Mainstream Parents**

**Hippies** were a minority of 1960s youth. But media coverage made their values known to other young people, many of whom responded sympathetically. To their parents’ distress, these youth let their hair grow long, wore hippie clothes, and criticized the Establishment, especially the war in Vietnam. The result was a growing generation gap, or difference in attitudes and behaviors between youth and their parents.

For millions of Americans, the post-WWII period of 1945 to 1960 brought an unforeseen era of economic growth and affluence. These Americans—adult, mostly white, middle and upper-middle class people—were the mainstream of the population. Mainstream men and women had survived the Great Depression and learned the values of frugality, how to make the smallest amount of money, or food, go the furthest. This was also the generation that fought and sacrificed during WWII. After coming together as a nation to defeat an evil enemy, this generation displayed a sense of patriotism not shown since the American Revolution. Mainstream Americans welcomed the hard-earned peace and economic stability of the postwar era. They bought homes in the suburbs, found good jobs, and settled down to raise families with the assumption that their children would go to college.

Mainstream Americans believed their shared belief in traditional American values were the foundation of a better life. First, they were very patriotic, as evidenced by a popular bumper sticker they put on their cars—“America: Love It or Leave It” Second, men and women who said they were in love got married—and stayed married. For unmarried couples to consider living together was not only unacceptable, but almost unheard of. Third, the mainstream generally believed that the “American Dream”—a good education, a good job, and a good home—could come true for anyone who worked hard, was dedicated and honest, and believed in the United States. Anyone who challenged this kind of thinking was accused of being “un-American”. The mainstream often dismissed “long-haired hippies” as spoiled rich kids. They resented the counterculture’s focus on hedonism (pursuit of pleasure) and its lack of concern for their future.  Fourth, mainstream Americans believed people should conform to traditional values in everything from personal behavior to fashion and grooming. For example, many people expected men to have short hair, be clear shaven, and wear suits. Women were expected to wear tasteful amounts of makeup, have their hair done, and mostly wear dresses, even while relaxing at home.

Peggy Noonan, a presidential speechwriter and newspaper columnist, was one of those mainstream youth. While hippies were dreaming of personal liberation, Noonan accepted the idea that “not everything is possible, you can’t have everything, and that’s not bad, that’s life.” Rather than chanting anti-Establishment slogans such as “Make love, not war,” her motto was “Show respect, love your country, stop complaining!”

Changing Views of Love and Marriage

The counterculture’s openness about sexual behavior took place amid rapidly changing views toward love and marriage. The sexual revolution was a by-product of the introduction of the birth control pill early in the decade. More couples were living together outside of marriage, and more marriages were ending in divorce. Millions of Americans came to see a loveless marriage as worse than no marriage at all. As a result, many states eased divorce laws. Between 1960 and 1970, the annual divorce rate rose from fewer than 10 couples per 1,000 to almost 15. The number of children living in single-parent families rose along with the divorce rate.

While numbers of young people experimented with the freedom the sexual revolution brought, mainstream adults focused on problems it created. They worried that young people were being pressured to engage in sexual behavior. Adults also expressed alarm at the rapid rise in the number of children born out of wedlock. Just as shocking was an increase in sexually transmitted diseases.

Hippies Experiment with Freer Lifestyles Many hippies created mini-societies in which they could live by their own values. Some congregated in crash pads, free and usually temporary places to stay. Others experimented with more permanent group-owned living arrangements, called communes. Members of communes shared responsibilities and decision making. During the 1960s, about 2,000 communes arose, most often in rural areas. Many mainstream parents reacted strongly to communal modes of living. Some parents felt that by choosing such unconventional lifestyles, their children may have been limiting their prospects for future success.

The counterculture also held changing views on the recreational use of drugs. At the 1967 Human Be-In, psychologist Timothy Leary urged the crowd to “turn on, tune in, and drop out.” The casual attitude of young people toward illegal mind-altering drugs appalled mainstream adults. They pointed out that some drug users experienced “bad trips” that led to panic attacks, depression, violence, and death. Government spending on antidrug programs increased from $65 million in 1969 to $730 million in 1973.

Hippie Fashion

Hippies dressed in outrageous, colorful, controversial, and sometimes ridiculous clothes that shocked the mainstream. They wore beads around their necks, and shirts tie-dyed in crazy colors or covered with odd designs, even replicas of the American flag. Young men wore fringe jackets and army surplus clothes. Young women often went braless and wore blouses that left their midriff exposed. Some women wore the mini-skirt that rose three inches above the knee, but while short skirts were in, short hair was out—especially for men. Not since the colonial days had so many American men wore their hair in pony tails. Others let it grow ½ way down their backs. Many mainstream adults claimed it was difficult to tell the boys from the girls. The hippies’ final fashion statement was flowers in their hair, a sign of “peace and love.” This trend earned the counterculture youth the nickname of “flower children”.

Rock ’n’ Roll

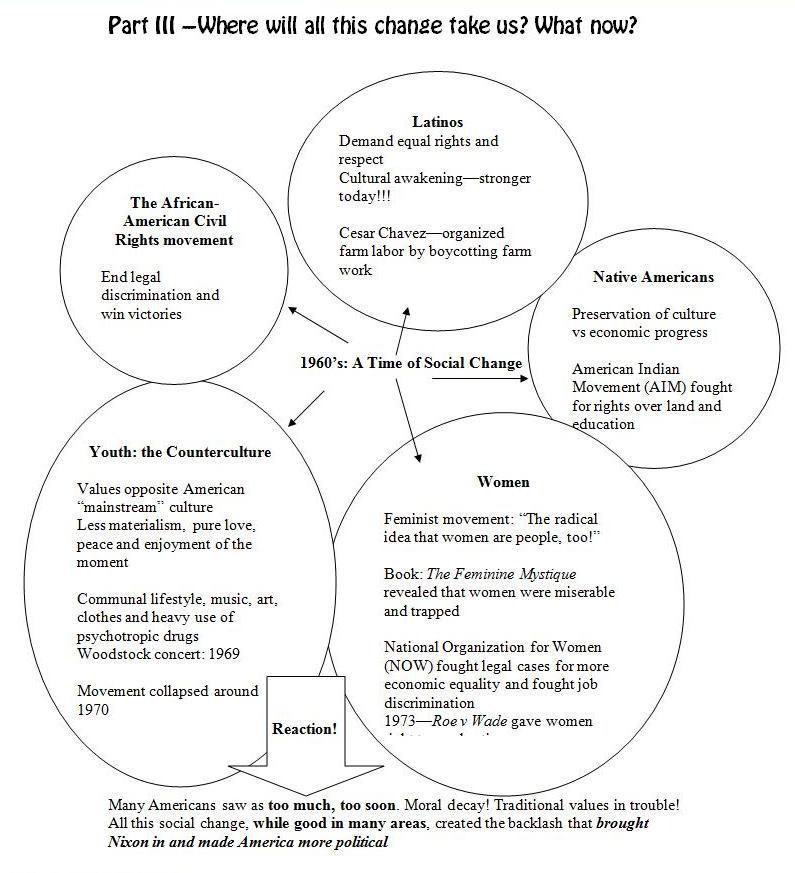
Gives Voice to the Counterculture Hippies also embraced the changing music scene. Counterculture rock bands soon developed a new sound known as psychedelic rock. They experimented with free-flowing songs that used elements of jazz and Indian music, sound distortion, and light shows to create vivid musical experiences. Many mainstream adults worried this type of music promoted increased drug use.

The counterculture was at its height at **Woodstock**, a 1969 concert in rural upstate New York. About 400,000 people convened at the festival—far more than expected. Despite rain and food shortages, the gathering was peaceful.

Woodstock helped popularize a new generation of rock performers. It also drew media attention to the counterculture. In August 1969, Time magazine reported, “The festival . . . may well rank as one of the significant political and sociological events of the age.” However, just a few months after Woodstock, four people died at a rock festival staged by the Rolling Stones in Altamont, California.The mainstream culture pointed to this event as an example of the dangers of rock ’n’ roll.

Hippie Political Activism

In the minds of many Americans—particularly the mainstream—the counterculture and the antiwar protest movement of the 1960s were inseparable. By the late 1960s, the media showed images nearly every week of long-haired protesters marching against the Vietnam War. Despite what many Americans thought, these protestors never fit into one easily categorized group. Some protestors were confrontational, burning the U.S. flag and screaming “Stop the war!” as they cursed and goaded the police or National Guard troops who were on duty. Other protestors were more interested in making a gentle “statement for peace.” They often marched in silence, carrying peace signs, and frequently placing flowers in the gun barrels of government troops to show their nonviolent nature. This “dual nature” of the protest movement was often lost on mainstream Americans. They often saw all student protesters as disloyal Americans who were betraying their country.

[](https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwjXjpjynO7hAhXsguAKHffsDdQQjRx6BAgBEAU&url=https%3A%2F%2Fsites.google.com%2Fa%2Fthemetroschool.org%2Fmaria-krantz-metro-history-site%2Fmajor-social-movements&psig=AOvVaw1OiBt2HUjPwSwQNeGV3Gee&ust=1556384124520466)

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**AMERICANS FIGHT FOR THEIR RIGHTS**

**The Women’s Rights Movement:**

1. What was life like for most women leading up to The Women’s Rights Movement?
2. Complete the chart below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Definition/Description** | **What Changed as a Result?**  **How Does it Affect Us Today?** |
| **The Pill** |  |  |
| **N.O.W.** |  |  |
| **Title IX** |  |  |
| **Roe v Wade** |  |  |
| **E.R.A.** |  |  |

***Give two reasons why Phyllis Schlafly opposes the Equal Rights Amendment.***

1.

2.

**Latino Rights Movement:**

1. What was life like for most Latinos leading up to the 1960’s & ‘70s?
2. Complete the chart below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Definition/Description** | **What Changed as a Result?**  **How Does it Affect Us Today?** |
| **Cesar Chavez** |  |  |
| **The Immigration & Nationality Act of 1965** |  |  |
| **Bilingual Education Act** |  |  |

**The Gay Right’s Movement:**

1. What was life like for most gay Americans leading up to the Gay Right’s Movement?
2. Complete the chart below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Definition/Description** | **What Changed as a Result?**  **How Does it Affect Us Today?** |
| **Sip-Ins** |  |  |
| **Stonewall Inn** | **Definition/Description** | **What Changed? Effects Today?** |
| **Political Action & Breakthroughs** |  |  |
| **You Are Living Through It** |  |  |

**The Native American Movement:**

1. What was life like for most Native Americans leading up to the 1960’s & ‘70s?
2. What is AIM?
3. Complete the chart below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Definition/Description** | **What Changed as a Result?** |
| **Alcatraz** |  |  |
| **March on Washington** |  |  |
| **Wounded Knee** |  |  |

**Counter Culture Movement**

* + - 1. What led growth of the counter culture movement?
      2. **Complete the Chart below**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Definition/Description** | **What Changed as a Result?** |
| **Counter Culture** |  |  |
| **Beatnik Movement** |  |  |
| **Hippies** |  |  |
| **Rock-n-Roll** |  |  |

**Name:**

**1960’s Movement & Counter Culture Assessment Questions:**

1. Why was the Feminine Mystique by Betty Friedan such an influential book during the 1960s?
2. Why did individuals like Phyllis Schlafly oppose the Equal Rights Amendment?

If the EPA had been ratified, how would life be different for women?

1. What was the impact of the Supreme Court Case of Roe vs. Wade?
2. What movement did Rachel Carson spark with her book, Silent Spring and which agency was created as a result of environmental activists?
3. Why did Cesar Chavez form the United Farm Workers (UFW) organization?
4. What organization was formed to explore the problems of Native Americans during the 1960?
5. Where did different strands of the counter culture come together in 1969 to celebrate rock music and culture?
6. How did counter culture change American social attitudes and how did Counter Culture contribute to conservative backlash?
7. Which movement do you believe was most influential? Explain your answer