

Slide 02: The Haight-Ashbury District of San Francisco

(following music)

Considered by many to be the birthplace of the Hippie counter-culture. Being replete with Victorian row-houses, cheap because it wasn't exactly a desirable neighborhood back then, the area tended to be populated by younger people who were already on the fringes of “acceptable society.” Together, they began to look around and take notice of the fact that they were living in a world full of hypocrisy.

Slide 03: World-Wide Injustices

A world of safety and excess for some, but a world of turmoil and starvation for others. The Cold War was in full swing, with wars in Asia being fought for political idealism.

Slide 04: Political and Domestic Injustices

Over 2 million innocent women and children had been killed in Korea. By 1960, there had been more than a million civilian deaths in Vietnam and another half million in Laos and Cambodia.

Worse yet, Jim Crow laws and segregation were rampant throughout the much of the United States. Black blood was being spilled alongside white in Asian rice fields, but they couldn't even share a beer together in public stateside.

As much as the Hippies deplored violence, they did have an extremely powerful weapon at their disposal.

Slide 05: The Musical Revolution

(following music)

A considerable number of the Hippies, particularly in the Haight, were competent musicians, singers, and songwriters who had been earning their way through music. Finding common cause brought many of them together to deliver music with a message for the entire world.

But the Hippies did far more than simply preach a gospel of peace, conservation, and universal brotherhood – they lived by it!

Slide 06: Frugality

In an era dominated by rampant consumerism, Hippies turned their backs on it all and lived as frugally as possible. For the most part, if they couldn't carry it with them, they didn't need it.

Slide 07: Environmentalism

While others were paving over nature with tract housing, Hippies lived communally to conserve space. While everyone else sought two or more cars in every driveway, Hippies took carpooling to extremes.

Slide 08: Brotherhood

While others were doing their damndest to keep blacks and whites apart, Hippies did their damndest to welcome one another with open arms – garnering more than a few nasty looks in the process.

Slide 09: Politics

Hippies were content to being a voice of the people, and more than willing to leave mainstream politics to others. Unfortunately, their opposition proved they were perfectly willing to go to extremes in their efforts to prevent the changes sought by Hippies.

Slide 10: The Great Be-In

Opting to take a more proactive approach, Hippies began organizing huge public rallies. Attendees were urged to question themselves and the establishment's attitudes towards civil rights, women's rights, and consumerism.

Slide 11: Escalation of Events

When Robert Kennedy threw his hat into the ring for the Presidency, being much like his brother, Hippies rallied behind him as the voice of sanity in an insane world. They cheered when Kennedy defeated his opposition in the primaries, but their celebration was short-lived when a Palestinian radical assassinated him before the news presses had even finished declaring his victory.

Slide 12: The 1968 Presidential Election

This left the 1968 election up for grabs between Nixon and Humphrey – both of whom the Hippies saw as capitalist pigs full of pork-barrel politics. The Yippies, a political offshoot of the Hippies, decided to enter the Presidential race with their own dark horse candidate.

Slide 13: The Pigasus Campaign

Or, rather, their light-colored pig candidate – Lyndon Pigasus. They presented their candidate among a great deal of laughter from those surrounding the Chicago Civic Center. The nearby Democratic Convention didn't find the Yippie candidate quite so amusing. Needless to say...

Slide 14: Chicago Riots

... the Pigasus Presidential Campaign didn't go over very well.

The Hippies decided to make a strategic withdrawal from politics and returned once more to the most potent weapon in their arsenal –

Slide 15: Opening of Woodstock

(following music)

What began as a small outdoor concert quickly grew into the event which defined an entire generation – Woodstock. More than half a million Hippies gathered on a hillside just outside White Lake, NY. The sleepy little hamlet of fifty thousand was overwhelmed by the gathering, with every store in town completely sold out of everything before the three-day concert even started! And that was just the beginning of the problems.

Slide 16: The Woodstock Concert

Torrential rains fell throughout the event, they grossly underestimated how many porta-potties would be needed, and you think it's hard to find a parking space at the local mall! The New York State Thruway was closed for the only time in its history and the Governor was prepared to call in ten thousand National Guard troops. Everyone was just waiting for all hell to break loose....and the Hippies proved them all wrong.

Slide 17: The National Anthem

(following music)

Woodstock turned out to be the largest and most peaceful gathering in the history of mankind. The owner of the site said “If we join them, we can turn those adversities that are the problems of America today into hope for a brighter and more peaceful future.”

The message of the Hippies had gotten through to world!

Slide 18: Charles Mason

And then this guy had to come along and screw it all up! Despite having a criminal record spanning more than twenty years prior to his Helter Skelter rampage – including raping his cellmate when he was 17 – all that the media cared about was that he called himself a Hippie.

Despite the Hippies' best efforts to distinguish themselves from Charles Manson and his “family,” the damage had been done and public sentiment towards the Hippies all but destroyed the movement.

Slide 19: The Hippie Legacy

Much of the modern world owes its existence to the Hippie movement. Their agrarian lifestyle evolved into Earth Day, organic produce, and the modern Environmental movement. Their embracing of alternate cultures gave rise to the commonplace of acupuncture, herbalism, meditation, and other forms of alternative medicines. Former Hippie Steve Jobs turned the electronic powerhouses of the government and big business into computers “for the rest of us.” Another Hippie, Robert Cailliau, and Tim Berners-Lee created the World Wide Web and gave it to the world for the betterment of all mankind. The Hippie mindset also lives on through a plethora of free and open-source software such as the Linux operating system.

Slide 20: The Occupy Movement

And even the world-wide Occupy Movements of 2011 harken back to the Sit-Ins and Be-Ins of the Hippie era. The Hippies may be gone, but their legacy lives on.