

SUMMER FUN

POP CULTURE

Pop culture consists of the objects, imagery, and ideas we recognize from a specific time period. Pop culture can include what we watch on TV, the style of clothes we wear, and the music we listen to, all of which are made popular through the media. The September 26, 1960 debate between Senator John F. Kennedy and Vice President Richard Nixon was the first general election presidential debate to be broadcast on TV, and President Kennedy's inauguration would be the first to be broadcast in color. Media coverage like this helped turn President and Mrs. Kennedy into the pop culture icons they are today.



Don and Virginia Coleman Collection/The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza

Movies, TV and Books

The 1960s saw several iconic releases of TV shows, movies and books. Movies like *The Sound of Music* and the first James Bond film, *Goldfinger*, were blockbusters, while TV hits like *The Andy Griffith Show* and *The Bugs Bunny Show* made their debut. Many Americans were only able to watch TV in black and white. The debut of Walt Disney's *Wonderful World of Color* in September 1961 encouraged people to purchase color television sets for their homes. The novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* was also published during this time, and in 1962, it was made into a feature film starring Gregory Peck.

Below is a list of some of the 1960s most popular TV shows, movies and books. Go through each and check off the ones you recognize.

TV Shows

- The Andy Griffith Show
- Bewitched
- Batman
- The Flintstones
- The Bugs Bunny Show

Movies

- Mary Poppins
- Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
- Goldfinger
- The Pink Panther
- 101 Dalmations

Books

- To Kill A Mockingbird
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar
- The Outsiders
- Green Eggs & Ham
- Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Music

During the 1960s, artists like The Beatles, the Rolling Stones and Elvis Presley helped popularize rock and roll while Aretha Franklin and Barbara Streisand reached the top of the pop charts. Jazz, blues and even country music also saw a wave of popularity during this time. Musicals like Camelot, based on the story of King Arthur which President Kennedy enjoyed reading as a child, could be listened to by purchasing vinyl records. Comedy records were also quite popular, and in 1962 The First Family, a comedy album featuring impressionist Vaughn Meader's parody of President Kennedy's role as Commander-in-Chief and his image as a member of the Kennedy family, was released.

Watch the clips below to listen to some of the biggest hits of the 1960s.

[The Beatles, "Here Comes the Sun"](https://youtu.be/xUNqsfFUwhY) | youtu.be/xUNqsfFUwhY

[The Rolling Stones, "Paint it Black"](https://youtu.be/170sceOwwXc) | youtu.be/170sceOwwXc

[Aretha Franklin, "Respect"](https://youtu.be/9iayJ8u4Qew) | youtu.be/9iayJ8u4Qew

[Barbra Streisand, "People"](https://youtu.be/P54IEBAmePg) | youtu.be/P54IEBAmePg

[Chubby Checker, "The Twist"](https://youtu.be/JCJHOpZph04) | youtu.be/JCJHOpZph04

[Elvis Presley, "Can't Help Falling in Love"](https://youtu.be/vGJTaP6anOU) | youtu.be/vGJTaP6anOU

How many of these songs do you recognize?

Fashion

Fashion during this 1960s can be described as groovy and psychedelic for its fun patterns and vibrant colors, as well as modern and sleek. The British introduced the world to the mini skirt, and women began to favor skirts over dresses. Mary Tyler Moore helped changed women's fashion on tv when she insisted her character be able to wear pants on the Dick Van Dyke Show. Men's clothing became more form fitting and the silk scarf was a popular accessory. Look at the photos below of different fashions from the 1960s. On the left you see First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy, a fashion icon of the 1960s wearing a professional yet eloquent skirt suit. In the other photos you see examples of two popular 1960s clothing items - a pair of tie dye pants and a paisley pattern button up shirt. How does the fashion compare between the three photos? Which style do you prefer?



Now it's your turn!

Design your own 1960s inspired outfits. Using the photos as inspiration, draw out designs for the following situations:

- Your everyday school outfit
- A fun weekend out with friends
- Attending a fancy event
- Relaxing at home

Now search your closet and see if you can create your own 1960s outfit. Mix and match what you find to create a fun outfit.

Photo Credits:
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Gift of Elaine Post/The Metropolitan Museum of Art
Gift of Marvin B. Patterson/ The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Comics

Kids and adults enjoyed reading comic books. The 1960s saw several new comic book characters including Spiderman, the Incredible Hulk, and The Justice League. In July 1964, the comic “Superman’s Mission for President Kennedy” was issued as a part of Superman #170. While a Superman comic featuring the president was originally set to be released in 1963, it was postponed after the assassination of President Kennedy. In 1964 President Lyndon B. Johnson, encouraged the release of the comic as a tribute to the late president. Did you know, President Kennedy knows Superman’s true identity as Clark Kent, something that Superman works hard to keep secret?



Create your own comic strip featuring President Kennedy. Include other comic book characters, superheroes, or create your own original characters.

How will President Kennedy interact with the other characters?

DC Comics Superman #170, Jeanne Reilly Collection/The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza