# COUNTERCULTURE

## Bob Dylan

* 1961-1965: Traditional folk singer/songwriter
* Influence of The Beatles
* Newport Folk Festival (1965)
* “Dylan Goes Electric”
* Creation of “Folk Rock”

## Influence of the Beats (Jack Kerouac, Allan Ginsberg)

* Jazz beat / beaten down / Beatitude
* Revived in the early 1960’s
* Move away from ideology of parents
* Hippies
* 2 main “centers”: Greenwich Village (New York) and Haight-Ashbury (San Francisco)
* Focus on sensory stimulation (psychedelic)
  + Poster art and clothing
  + Drugs

### Music

* Loud
* Lighting shows
* Longer or unusual song forms
* Jamming (collective improvisation)

## “Truckin’” (The Grateful Dead, 1970)

* Influenced by folk rock
* Collective improvisation (jamming)
* More aggressive sound develops less obvious folk image

## Acid Rock

### “White Rabbit” (Jefferson Airplane, 1967)

* Good example of acid rock
* Was just under 3 minutes long, which was not usually the norm with long counterculture songs
* Was also a pop hit
* Drug references
* Reference to parent distrust
* Reference to Alice in Wonderland (White Rabbit). Being a children’s story, this story has a lot of drug mentions

## After 1967

* Youth culture becomes more politically active
* Focus on civil rights and the draft / Vietnam
* Youth International Party (Yippies)
  + Jerry Rubin / Abbie Hoffman
* Music is louder – more aggressive
* Return to blues influences
* Psychedelic blues

## Jimi Hendrix

* Technical virtuoso
* Control of high levels of distortion
* Worked as a guitar player for other musicians in the early 1960’s (played in Little Richard’s band)
* Fundamentally changed the way electric guitar is played

### “Voodoo Child (Slight Return)” (1967)

* Blues influence

## Woodstock (August 1969)

* Counterculture
* It was held on Max’s farm
* 350,000 to 500,000 people showed up. Around 30,000 were expected to come
* A large group of people were stuck in the middle of nowhere and they worked together to help each other out
* The Rolling Stones were invited to Woodstock, but they denied

## Altamont, California (December 1969)

* The Rolling Stones tried to have their own version of Woodstock
* They hired The Hell’s Angels motorcycle gang for security and paid them $500 with beer
  + This was a bad decision as they beat up people, and made the event a disaster
* Decision to have the concert in Altamont racetrack was not a good one due to the shortage of space
* This gave the people who were against the counterculture, a chance to criticize it

## End of the Counterculture

### Paul McCartney leaves The Beatles (April 1970)

* The very heart of the counterculture was gone

### Kent State, Ohio (May 1970)

* Protest at Kent State University
* The national guards fired 70 rounds of rifles
* 10 students were injured, 4 were dead
* The governor of Ohio: “They had it coming”

### More Deaths

* Jimi Hendrix: September 1970
* Janice Joplin: Drug overdose, October 1970
* Jim Morrison (The Doors), July 1971