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Songs of the Vietnam War

**Instructions**: Answer the questions below for **four** of the songs you listen to.

1. **When was the song written and what events were happening at that time?** 
   1. song #1: War by Edwin Starr – The Vietnam War was going on at the time and the song was protesting against going to war. Edwin Starr was anti-war and wanted the American troops to retreat.
   2. song #2: Ohio by Crosby, Stills and Nash – The song was about the massacre that took place on Kent State University in Ohio. Four students were killed by the U.S. National Guard.
   3. song #3: Fortunate Son by Creedence Clearwater Revival – The Vietnam War draft was going on and many people avoided the draft through money and other means.
   4. song #4: Give Peace A Chance by John Lennon – The Vietnam War was ongoing, a very violent war. The song was about avoiding war and staying at peace by being in bed all day.
2. **What is the mood of the song? Is it angry, sad, hopeful, sarcastic, joyful, triumphant, etc.?**
   1. song #1: War by Edwin Starr - Doubt
   2. song #2: Ohio by Crosby, Stills and Nash – Angry
   3. song #3: Fortunate Son by Creedence Clearwater Revival - Unjust
   4. song #4: Give Peace A Chance by John Lennon - Joyful
3. **What attitude toward the war is being expressed? Do you think the songwriter is expressing their personal feelings, or the general attitudes of their society?**
   1. song #1: War by Edwin Starr – I do believe that the songwriter was expressing their own personal feelings towards the war in this song because this was a protest song. Edwin Starr was protesting against war and its violence, advocating for people to settle it out peacefully instead.
   2. song #2: Ohio by Crosby, Stills and Nash – I think this song portrays a negative attitude towards the war because it is singing about how the U.S. National Guard shot and killed 4 students, which shines a negative light on the military. This song was based on the songwriter’s own personal feelings.
   3. song #3: Fortunate Son by Creedence Clearwater Revival – They were expressing how unfair it was for rich young people to not be drafted simply because of their wealth. The poor people were more likely to be drafted and sent out to a dangerous war. This song was based on the general attitude of their society and how unfair it was for rich people to avoid the war.
   4. song #4: Give Peace A Chance by John Lennon – This is a protest song against the war in Vietnam and the songwriter was expressing their own personal feelings.
4. **Give an example of a current protest song. How have the themes changed since the Vietnam War? How are feelings of patriotism expressed in today’s music?** An example of a current protest song is This is America by Childish Gambino. The themes have changed since the Vietnam War in many ways, one of them being that many songs are about how corrupt or unjust the federal government is. Feelings of patriotism are rarely expressed in today’s music nowadays
5. **Go to the following URL** (<http://www.songfacts.com/detail.php?lyrics=4405>) **and listen to The Ballad of the Green Berets. How is it different from the other songs you listened to?** The Ballad of the Green Berets talked about how brave and great the men were who fought for the Vietnam War. This is different from the other songs since this song is pro-war.
6. **Watch the trailer from the movie, *The Green Berets*** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2xhfSWEbbhM>). **When was the movie made? Explain why you think the motion picture and song were released?** The movie was made in 1968. I think the movie and song were released as propaganda to encourage young soldiers to join the war effort.