

Welcome to the 1950s, this is the era that America looks back on and calls the good old days, but was it really?

Today your assignment is to explore life in the 1950s and determine if it was really the good old days, or if they were dealing with problems similar to ours today. All the information can be found on the class homepage at the link Living in the 1950s, or at the address below:

<http://msmcdushistory2.pbworks.com/w/page/21881757/Living-in-the-1950s>

Assignment-

Step 1: Explore, read and answer the questions on the topics listed below on the worksheet.

Step 2: Answer the following question when you are done, "Were the 1950s really a better time to live in America, why or why not?"

Step 3: Turn in the answer sheet and the mini-essay, stapled together.

Rock and Roll

- A. Listen to the Perry Como Song. This is an example of the music that adults were listening to in the 1950s, now watch the Elvis Video on YouTube. He was one of the first performers to gain fame as a Rock 'n Roll artist.
- B. Answer the following questions:
 1. What is the contrast between Big Band and Rock and Roll?
 2. Adults objected to how Rock 'n Roll was performed as well as the music itself. Why did Ed Sullivan only film Elvis from the waist up on his show?
 3. Why was Rock 'n Roll considered "Satan's" music and tasteless?
 4. What style of music, and what communities influenced Rock and Roll?
 5. Who were the earliest Rock 'n Rollers?

Suburbia

1. How do you define a suburb?
2. Who originally moved to suburbs, what were they leaving behind?
3. What does the phrase, "Keeping up with the Joneses mean?"
4. Look at the suburbs picture? Do you see similarities to where you live? Differences?
5. List as many suburbs of Salt Lake as you can.

Introduction of Fast Food

1. How does the introduction of Fast Food change American Society?
2. What did America have before Fast Food?
3. What causes the spread of restaurants such as McDonald's and Kentucky Fried Chicken?

Jonas Salk

1. What was Salk's contribution to the world of medicine?
2. What vaccine did he develop?
3. What disease was he originally working on?

Conformity

1. What groups were left out of the prosperity of the 1950s? List two groups and why they didn't participate in the affluence of the time.
2. What is the Beat Generation? What did they celebrate?
3. What was the quote from "The Catcher in the Rye" talking about?
4. Who were some of the Big Screen Rebels? Where were these movies set?
5. What changed the ideas about sex during this time? What myths were shattered?

Prosperity

1. What were the five largest industries in America at the time?
2. How was industry changing during this time?
3. What worker values were sought after and rewarded?
4. Who is Brownie Wise and why was she so revolutionary?

Interstate System

1. What were the two purposes of the Interstate system?
2. What President pushed so hard for this system?
3. How much would the system cost the taxpayers?.
4. What taxes would be increased to cover the cost of the Interstate Highways?

Women

1. What was the expected role of women in the 50s?
2. What was the pop culture depiction (portrayal) of women and the work they did in the home?
3. In the book *Modern Woman: The Lost Sex* what did they think the consequences of women working was?
4. Betty Friedan started her research for the *Feminine Mystique* during the 1950s. What question did she say that all women were struggling with? What were the consequences of that need not being addressed?

Population

1. What phenomenon do the following charts show?
2. What were the peak years of population growth?
3. During any of the decades what was the highest percentage of the population in the age group 0-4?
4. By 1970s what age was that group of kids? What about today?

On a separate piece of paper answer the following question in a two paragraph essay. It is an opinion question, but you need to use the information from the readings to support your opinion. **"Were the 1950s really a better time to live in America, why or why not?"**