



Cultural and Social Changes – T.V. Dinner and Rock Around the Clock

Unit: 1945-1968

Lesson 6: Culture and Social Changes

Time: approximately 1 period (75 minutes)

Learning Goal: To understand the social and cultural changes happening in Canada and the impact it had on Canadian society

Resources: Cultural pictures from the 1950s and 1960s (e.g. fashion, haircuts, fads, suburbia, cars) slang terms from the 1950s and 1960s, video clips from popular T.V. shows of the 1950s and 1960s, popular music from the 1950s and 1960s

T.V. Dinner – peas and square carrots (frozen), instant mash potatoes, frozen hamburger patties, canned gravy, brownie, tin foil, plates and cutlery

Handouts: Rock Around the Clock Placemat, 1950s and 1960s Television

Minds On

- As the students enter the class, have a mix of popular music from the 1950s and 1960s playing. You may want to have film clips of the more popular musicians from the period.
- In small groups have the student do a written conversation using the following questions: Why is the music of the period so important? How did they musicians influence society in Canada?

Action

- You may want to use the Foods Room or Cafeteria area to make the T.V. dinners. You may want to prepare the food ahead of time and serve it to the students or you may want the students to prepare the food, and arrange it on the plates in a T.V. diner style.
- Once the meal is complete the students will get to eat their T.V. dinner “in front of the T.V.” in the style of the period. You can discuss how the T.V. often changed family life and eating patterns.
- Show the students a variety of T.V. clips from the period and have the students complete a double entry journal – one side noting the specific actions, words, attitudes, and dress of the characters and other side of the journal should reflect what these clips tell about the social norms and cultural values of the period. This could lead to a larger classroom discussion on the social and cultural norms of the period and how and why they challenged earlier eras. Emphasize the creation of teen culture and the growing American domination of popular culture.
- Students can work in pairs or small groups and complete the Rock Around the Clock Placemat that accompanies their meal. Students could review their answers with others in the class or you could take them up together.

Consolidation

Exit Slip: How has the creation of the teen culture in the 1950s and 1960s impacted Canadian society today?

Admit Slip: Would you have preferred to live in the 1950s or the 1960s? Explain why using specific details from the time period to support your answer.