

Spotlight on 1965



Choose one event below. In a small group, research how each event might have affected children, teens, and adults and discuss how the event relates to the concept of the American dream.

POLITICS OF 1965

- President Lyndon Johnson proposes a "Great Society" (a collection of social initiatives).
- Operation Rolling Thunder is launched against targets in North Vietnam.
- The Supreme Court approves conscientious objector status allowing people with certain beliefs to not serve in the military.
- First U.S. combat troops enter South Vietnam.
- Malcolm X is assassinated.
- Medicare legislation is passed.
- Congress passes law that makes the burning of draft cards illegal.
- Higher Education Act provides financial assistance for college students.
- Immigration Act of 1965 allows more immigrants to enter the U.S.



Imagine that you are a teenager in 1965.

How would YOU react? How about your parents?

Write a short dialogue showing what you might have said to your parents to describe your thoughts and emotions.

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS OF 1965

- American poet Allen Ginsberg coins the phrase "Flower Power."
- Teenagers use phrases including *outta' sight*, *swell*, *square*, *far out*, and *hip*.
- University of Michigan "teach-in" is the first antiwar protest.
- Watts riots bring six days of violence in South Los Angeles, Calif.



CULTURAL EVENTS OF 1965

- Sony and Cher appear on *American Bandstand* singing "I've Got You Babe."
- The National Foundation of the Arts and Humanities is founded.
- The Keepers of the House* by Shirley Anne Grau wins the Pulitzer Prize for literature.
- Pop artist Andy Warhol completes his "purple" and "blue" Campbell Soup Can; Tomato paintings.
- The Beatles play at Shea Stadium in front of a record-breaking audience of 55,600.
- Astronaut Edward White travels 100 miles above the earth for the first U.S. space walk.

