***American Experience: Summer of Love***

In the summer of 1967, thousands of young people from across the country flocked to San Francisco's Haight Ashbury district to join in the hippie experience, only to discover that what they had come for was already disappearing. By 1968 the celebration of free love, music, and an alternative lifestyle had descended into a maelstrom of drug abuse, broken dreams, and occasional violence.

**ANSWER FOUR OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS**

1. What is characteristic of the hippie generation?
2. What were conditions like in the US when they grew up?
3. What were they reacting against and what were they searching for?
4. What role did drugs play in the hippie movement? How did the hippies view mind altering drugs like LSD?
5. As the news about what was going on in San Francisco spread across the country what was it that attracted so many young people to the city?
6. Who were ***the diggers*** and what type of society were they trying to create?
7. How do the regular residents of Haight - Ashbury react to the influx of hippies into their community?
8. How does the summer of love develop? What goes wrong? What happens eventually to the Haight- Ashbury hippie community?
9. How do some of those who participated in the events of the summer of love look back upon that time and how do they view the significance of what occurred?

***1968 with Tom Brokaw***

The year 1968 is considered one of the most turbulent, and pivotal, twelve month periods in American history. This single year was a flashpoint for many of the social, political, and cultural transformations for which the overall decade of the 1960s is known. During these years, the United States became entrenched in an unpopular war in Vietnam abroad, while unrest, experimentation, violence, and outspokenness raged throughout the nation. The Civil Rights Movement gained momentum, sit-ins and riots became commonplace, leaders were assassinated on a seemingly regular basis, and social experimentation and psychedelic music became the rage in San Francisco and elsewhere. Many consider these years divisive, others shameful, yet some believe they were necessary to galvanize change in America.

The slowly building upheaval of the 1960s reached an apex in 1968. The tension that had been increasingly brewing over the previous years finally came to a head, exploding across 365 days of violence, uprising, and mourning. Robert Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. were assassinated, riots broke out at the Democratic National Convention, and the media coverage of the Tet Offensive exposed the gruesome underbelly of the Vietnam War. Together, these events signaled the powerful cultural, economic, and social changes that still reverberate today.

**ANSWER FOUR OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS**

1. What was the Tet Offensive? What did it reveal about the conflict in Vietnam and why was it particularly shocking for Americans?
2. What was at stake for those who dodged the draft? By going to Canada to escape the draft and military service, were people breaking the law? Do you think some draft dodgers were justified, or not? Explain your answer.
3. What incited the various sit-ins and protests at Columbia University? How would you describe the make-up of these protestors and what ultimately happened to them? Do you think that anything of this size and nature could happen today? Why or why not?
4. What were the various reactions to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.?
5. Why do you think Robert Kennedy was such an influential and widely liked candidate, especially among minority groups such as migrant farm workers? What set him apart from Eugene McCarthy? Finally, why was the Senator assassinated?
6. What were the repercussions (consequences / results) of the riots at the 1968 Democratic Convention? Can you think of any recent event that was covered and exposed so extensively on television?
7. What was the “silent majority” and why were they significant? How did this group ultimately affect the results of the 1968 Presidential Election?