

## The Century: Peter Jennings Unpinned: 1964-1968

1. What happened to three of the first students to arrive in Mississippi and why were they there in the first place?

The first three students who journeyed to Mississippi went missing some time after they arrived and a week later they were found dead in a van; they were all shot in the head. The three students originally went down there to help educate Black-Americans who were denied proper education based on their skin color.

2. Where did many of the protest movements originate in the early 1960s? With the civil rights movement underway and getting stronger it inspired other causes across the country. During this time Universities across the country began to have movement of their own; students who wanted freedom of speech and expression at their schools began protesting. Freedom of speech was eventually granted to these schools.

3. Describe the landscape of Vietnam.

Vietnam is mostly jungles and swamps and unlike past wars the US was often fighting an unknown enemy, the Vietcong, these guerrilla fighters made the war very difficult for Americans. The humidity and the mosquitos in the jungles and the VC often drove many Americans mad.

4. Why were most black Americans unable to vote in Alabama? Give examples.

Alabama was ripe with racism and white people refused to believe that Black people had the same rights as they did. throughout these years thousands of black people were arrested, beaten, or even killed.

5. What was the outcome of the first march from Selma to Montgomery?

The march was stopped by the Alabama state police who used horses and tear gas against the protestors. In the end the protestors ran from the violence and many people were arrested or badly hurt.

6. Violence in the South against Civil Rights activists helped the movement gain the support of who?

The violence did not stop the movement; in fact it just made it stronger than before because now President Lyndon Johnson himself was going to

help the protestors on a larger scale. Soon many powerful figures from across the nation were gathering to help the movement.

7. What was the message of Malcolm X and the Black Panthers?

Malcolm X led speeches that spoke of how peaceful movements were not as effective as taking up arms against oppression. The Black Panthers were established in California and they stood as a group that would attack anyone who went after peaceful protestors.

8. Where were the riots and discontent most prevalent in the mid-1960s? Why?

While the South was on a path of peaceful non-violent protesting the rest of the nation did not seem quite as calm. Across the states there were many riots and shootouts in urban areas between civil rights extremists, police, anti civil rights groups, and the military.

9. Rock music's theme in the 1960s was?

The theme of this music was to tell the youth that the way things are run is corrupt or broken and that it needs to change. This continued to spark the nation's youth to seek out more freedom and change for America.

10. What was the status of women in the 60s? How were they trying to change that status? And what new inventions changed their lives?

Women continued to suffer discrimination mostly in the work place since jobs were marked as either male or female. They wanted the same rights as men and new inventions like high heel shoes and bras made women feel like toys rather than people.

11. Describe the strategy of the North Vietnamese in the war.

The US thought the war would be the same as WW2 or Korea instead they were fighting a whole new kind of war. The North Vietnamese knew that if they attacked the US head on they would be crushed so they used hit and run tactics and they booby trapped entire areas with explosives.

12. What impact did T.V. have of the Vietnam War?

T.V. showed the average American just how terrible war could be. With constant images on T.V. about Americans dying for who knows what just fed the desire to get out of Vietnam.

13. What group of Americans did most of the fighting in Vietnam?

College students were often the majority of the men who traveled to fight in Vietnam. As opposition towards the war grew many Americans didn't want to help the effort or join the military they just wanted the killing to stop.

14. What impact did the Tet offensive have on Americans and their perceptions of the war?

Though the North Vietnamese suffered a military defeat at this battle they gained a political victory since millions of television viewers at home saw the brutality of war. Tet simply made Americans wonder if we would win this war or if it would ever end.

15. What happened at the Democratic Convention in 1968? How do you think mainstream America reacted?

During the convention thousands of protestors gathered to have their say in the event; instead violence between the protestors and the police ignited resulting in many injuries and arrests. With numerous events like this across the country many people might have begun to worry that the federal government was trying to crush their basic rights.