

# How did teenagers behave in the 1970s and beyond?



Make a list of all of the things that annoy you and you might want to protest or complain about:

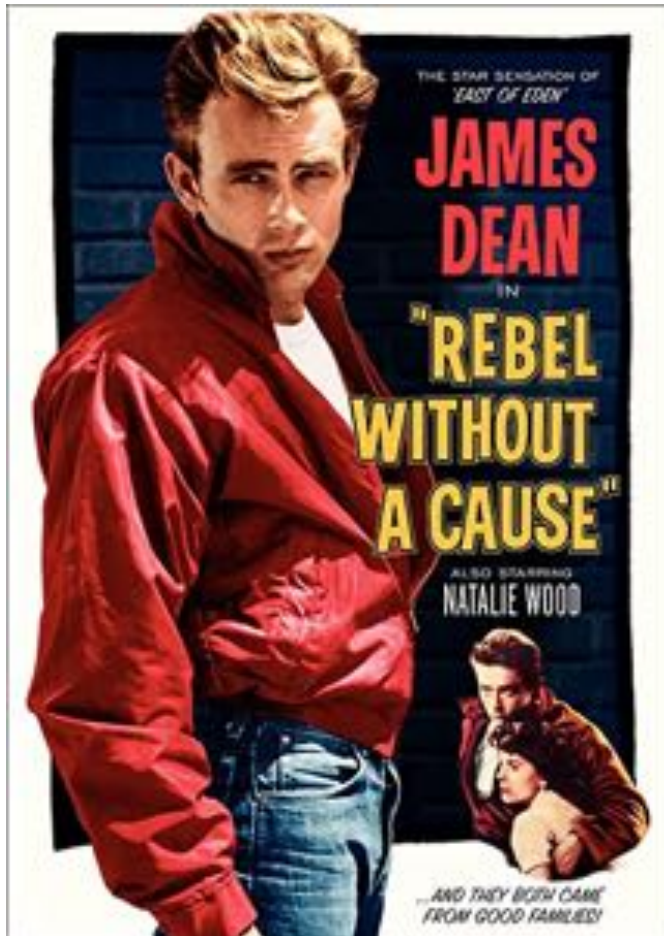
Rebellion in youth culture became a really important part of who a teenager was in the 1970s, many using terms like “...being a rebel without a cause” and “what are you actually rebelling against?.” Many people couldn’t understand why teenagers had grown so hostile and angry – after all, they had more freedom, money, choices and entertainment than any teenager in history.

Why do you think teenagers became so angry and rebellious?





The answer in part was the influence on British culture of the USA. There were so many pin ups and movie stars who became role models to British teenagers. A film star named Marlon Brando played Johnny, an angry rebel in 'The Wild One' and many young people adopted this attitude as it was seen as cool and fun.



You have a list of grievances from the time, stick them in and rank them in order of importance as to why teenagers might have been so angry and rebellious...

Reasons for teenagers to be so rebellious. Rank them in an order for what you think would be the most important to least important.

	The 1950s – ideas about duty, respectability, obeying orders, doing what other people did, buttoned-up, attitudes to sex and drugs (often hypocritical, meaning lots of adults did what they said was wrong)
	The War generation – teens in the 1960s had parents who had fought and suffered in the war, a hard act to follow. Imagine always being told, 'I didn't fight Hitler so you could...'
	Boredom – teens in the 1960s had money and leisure time but not always anything to do with it.
	Politics – the 1960s saw the first real challenges to the belief that politicians were trustworthy and always did the best for the country. Politicians were seen as a deceitful liars
	Social change – Immigration was a key issue for lots of young people feeling they were being overrun by outsiders to their country, as well as the changing role of women in society too
	Disappointment or frustration that Britain was not living up to their hopes and expectations
	Each other – Teen culture immediately split into different, competing groups, such as the Mods and Rockers. Teenagers had to choose a group to be in leading to gang violence and worsening behaviour



By the 1970s, teenagers in the UK spend about £800 million per year on themselves - mainly on clothes, make up, and entertainment. Music, advertising and fashion became more influential than parents. The term 'raging against the machine' became popular, which basically meant fighting back against the people in charge (parents, teachers, politicians, in fact, anyone telling you what to do).

### Who were the Mods & Rockers?



"Five youths, in motor cycling clothes were walking peacefully along the sea wall, when a gang of Mods descended on them like a pack of vultures, and started to put the boot in. Mr Taylor (17) leading the gang, and Mr Smith (aged 18) kicking at the the youths"

What is your impression of this quote from Inspector Brown



"As a 16 year old, my parents forbade me to go out alone with a boy, to ride on the back of a motor scooter, to drink, to go to a club where the Rolling Stones played... So one night I deliberately broke every one of their rules.

I went on the back of my boyfriend's scooter to the club, listened to the Stones and got drunk, and [had sex] in his house before going home. It was just adolescent rebellion against being controlled, though that was part of it.

There was something keener, fresher in the air. A sense that we were going to do things our way, and that there were a lot of us who rejected not just our parents but the values they represented."

It is important to note that not all teenagers rejected social expectations. Most teenagers didn't drop out and only a tiny minority of teenagers fought each other on the beaches of the south coast. Most student protests were law-abiding.

Perhaps what changed most was not teenagers, but the way the media reacted to them?

Mods

Rockers

Draw these circles spaced out on a clean page, leaving enough space to write around each one with their different features and characteristics (appearance etc...)

Teddy  
Boys

What are the characteristics of... “A Mod”





What are the characteristics of... “A Mod”



What are the characteristics of... “A Mod”



What are the characteristics of... “A Rocker”



What are the characteristics of... "A Rocker"





What are the characteristics of... “A Rocker”





What are the characteristics of... “A Teddy Boy”



What are the characteristics of... “A Teddy Boy”



What are the characteristics of... "A Teddy Boy"



Using the information or ideas you've written down, try to summarise each group as if you were describing them to someone today...

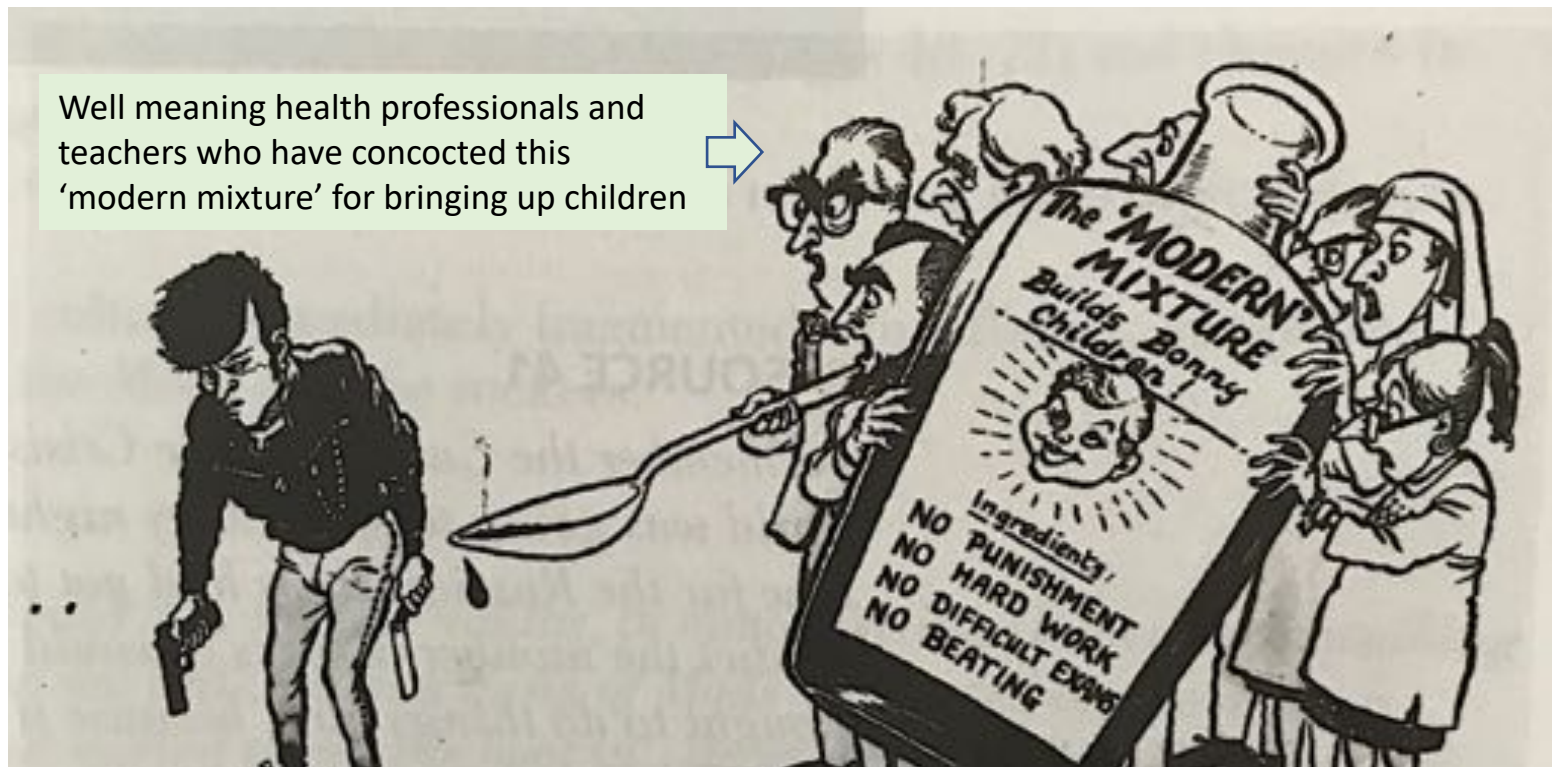
What group do you think you would have been in? What about your family members?





Published in the Daily Express: “The poor darling! The medicine we’ve been giving him is much too nasty!” As well as a gun, the teenager is carrying a flick knife and wearing ‘winkle picker’ shoes.

Well meaning health professionals and teachers who have concocted this ‘modern mixture’ for bringing up children



Stick this source in your book and annotate around it what you think the message of the source is, you should try to pick out and use as much evidence as possible from the source.

Key Q: What does it suggest is the reason why teenagers have turned out so bad?

Also, how do we know he is a Rocker?



“Looking for trouble” - A policeman is looking round the corner at teenager rockers, ignoring all the sexual scandals, pornography, indecent behaviour and gambling with which adult society is obsessed. I was published in the Daily Mail.



How does this source suggest the authorities (adults) were deeply hypocritical in their reaction to teenagers behaviour?

Annotate around your source as many examples that show this or help you agree with that statement...

What can you see here?

A beach scene with young couples canoodling which others (older people) sit relaxing.

There is obviously no objection... at the point this photo was taken...



Can we work out what happened in May 1960 in Margate and Brighton...















## The Battle of the Beach – Mods Vs. Rockers.

How might the Battle of the Beach suggest teenagers were now out of control?



What does this source show?

## % of births of 15-19 year olds

