

CHAPTER
23

Section 3

SKILLBUILDER PRACTICE *Comparing; Contrasting*

Although decades apart, the hippies of the 1960s and the flappers of the 1920s both reflected youthful rebellion. In what other ways were these two movements similar? How were they different? Read the passage below, then fill in the Venn diagram to compare and contrast these two groups. (See Skillbuilder Handbook, p. R8.)

Countercultures The flappers of the 1920s and the hippies of the 1960s both belonged to movements against the values and, in many cases, strict social rules of the established “adult” society of their times.

In the 1920s, that conventional society may have seemed rather staid and stuffy to young people caught up in the Jazz Age. Those young men and women reflected a new sense of freedom, fun, and a kind of easy self-confidence. Relationships between women and men became much freer than in the past. Unlike their parents, these “flaming youth” went on dates without chaperones. They played with bold enthusiasm, driving recklessly and partying wildly to the strains of exciting new jazz.

Even the styles of women’s fashion changed. Instead of heavy, long skirts and tight corsets of the previous generation, young women chose short, straight dresses. Flappers wore their hair cut short and close to the head. They also used bright lipstick and cheek color, which had not been acceptable in “polite society” up until then. Some of their elders looked on these young people as immoral.

Youthful Idealism By the 1960s, young people began protesting against the materialistic and militaristic emphasis they saw in their parents’ generation. Many hippies seeking a different way of life joined together to form communes, where they lived and worked together. They believed in open, free relationships between men and women.

Hippies also turned to new forms of rock ’n’ roll as ways to express themselves. Many people with more conventional views saw the hippies’ music and lifestyle as indecent and threatening to society.

As a reaction to what they saw as artificial, “establishment” fashions, young women turned away from the more conventional short skirts, dramatic make-up, and stiff, structured hair styles of their times, choosing instead worn jeans or long, flowing dresses, the natural look of no make-up, and soft, loose hair.

Not all young people in the ’60s or the ’20s rebelled against conventional culture. However, both groups were highly visible representations of changes that were taking place throughout the United States.

