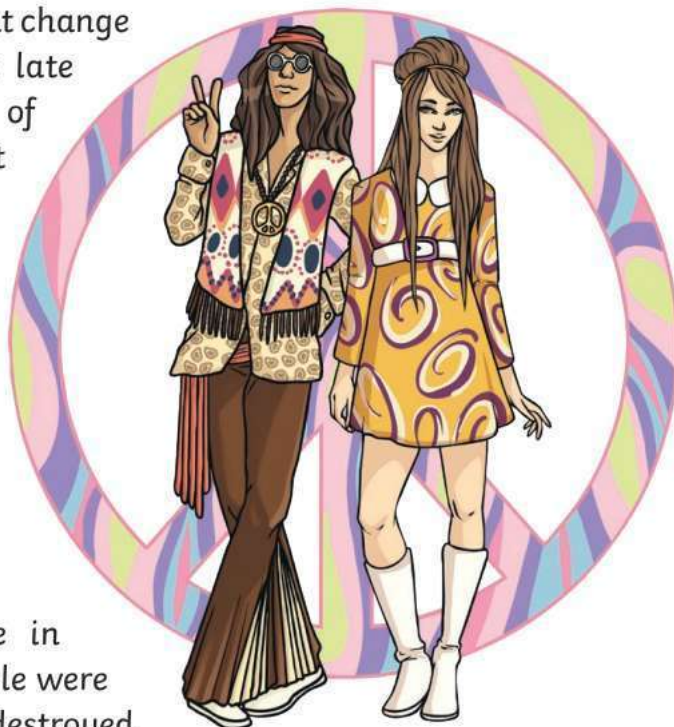


The Swinging 60s

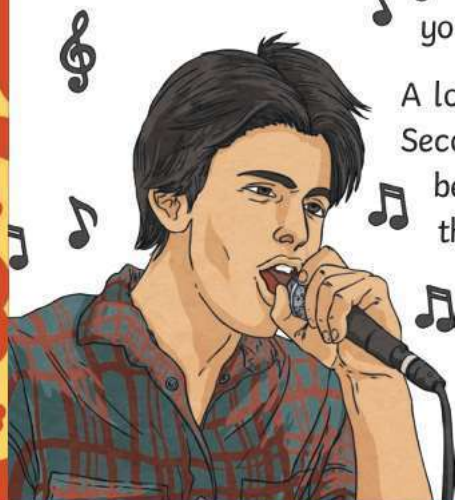
The Swinging 60s was a time of great change that took place during the mid to late 1960s. In the years before, a lot of young people felt that life was a bit boring. The Swinging 60s changed all that. People wanted to have more fun. There were new types of films, music and fashion and even the way people looked at the world was different. In fact, the 1960s is often called the most important ten years of the 20th century.



After the Second World War, life in Britain had been hard. A lot of people were poor and many places had been destroyed after the bombings. There was little money and sometimes there wasn't enough food to go around. A lot of London was still in ruins but something changed in the 1960s. People started thinking in a different way and soon, London was an important place to be again. It became the world capital for freedom and hope. It was the city where anything was possible and it was a really exciting place. It was like the whole country had been born again.

Music

British music became fashionable all over the world, with some British groups becoming the most famous of all. People from as far away as America, Australia and Europe became fans. The songs were usually bright and happy but some groups sang about standing up for your rights and what you believe.



A lot of the music was also about peace. Even though the Second World War was over, there were still other wars being fought around the world. Musicians showed people the horrors of war and sang about love and peace. They questioned why wars were still taking place and challenged the people who made the decisions.

Even now, 1960s music is popular and some of the bands are still going today!

Fashion

Fashion during the Swinging 60s looked very different to that of the 1940s and 50s. Designers, models and fashion magazines encouraged new styles, like the miniskirt, and people loved dressing differently. The most fashionable areas were in London. Shops in Carnaby Street and King's Road were the best places for people wanting the latest fashion.



Although a lot of the Swinging 60s was about women's fashion, men's fashion also changed. Everything seemed to get wider!

Questions

1. What did a lot of young people think life was like before the Swinging 60s?

2. How did some people see the world in the Swinging 60s? Tick **one**.

- angrily
- forgetfully
- differently
- sadly

3. Using the text, describe Britain after the Second World War.

4. Why did a lot of bands sing about peace in the 1960s?

5. Number these to show the order that they appear in the text. The first one has been done for you.

-men's fashion also changed.
- 1**the 1960s is often called the most important ten years of the 20th century.
-London was an important place to be again.
- The songs were usually bright and happy....
- The most fashionable areas were in London.

6. Link these to the new styles in the Swinging 60s.

women

men

both

wide trousers

new hairstyles

makeup

7. Why do you think young people enjoyed the Swinging 60s so much?

8. Why do you think 1960s music is still popular today? Tick **two**.

- Because people enjoy the tunes.
- Because people like history.
- Some songs make people think or remember the past.
- They play them on the radio.