Small talk

Click for flag and title

T: Hello and good morning/afternoon to all
So, who is here today? (Pick at random)
A: Good morning/afternoon, XXX. My name is … … …
B: Good morning/afternoon, XXX. My name is … … …
C: Good morning/afternoon, XXX. My name is … … …
Etc...

A, Can you read the title, please?

T: America in the 60’S.

What comes to your mind?

Do you recognize this flag?

The American flag.

Of course! But can you explain what the stars and stripes represent?

Students answer

The baby boom

Click for picture of babies and text boxes

T: Why was a generation of babies called “baby boomers”? What had just happened?

Students answer

T: How old were they when the decade started?

Students answer

T: What can be said about the American population of the early sixties?

Students answer

T: Why and how can the sixties be called a turning point in American history and society, that’s what we are going to sort out.

Students answer

The American dream

Click for all pictures and captions

T: What does the American dream usually refer to?

Students answer

T: Where can you find this notion of ‘pursuit of happiness’?

Students answer

T: What is typical of the American dream in the early sixties?
Students answer
T What can you say about the American cars of this period?
Students answer
T What is a suburb? Why do you think suburbs were developing at that time?
Students answer
T How important is material prosperity to you? Why?
Students answer
Click for next slide and title

Slide 4  American graffiti 5’
T What does the title of the slide refer to?
Students answer
T The film by George Lucas American Graffiti. Does someone know what the story is about?
Students answer
About a group of teens hanging about in a provincial town in the 60s.
T What sorts of place or items get into the graffiti?
Students answer
A fast food restaurant, a drive-in cinema, American cars.
Click for everything to check
T How do you feel about fast food restaurants? Can they be ignored in a modern lifestyle anyway?
Students answer
T Do you sometimes go to drive-in cinemas?
Students answer
T Do you think that teenagers should be allowed to take their driving license younger?
Students answer
T Do you remember scenes of crazy car races in American films? Which ones? Can you tell what the story is about in a few sentences?
Students answer
T How important is it for you to get together with your friends today?
Students answer
T How about pinball machines? Do you like playing? In cafés?
Students answer
What’s so typically American in these pictures? What conveys the typically American atmosphere on this slide? This slide is like/sort of a stereotype of the American way of life.

Students answer
the places, the atmosphere, the colours, it’s like in a film

Click for next slide

Slide 5  California dream
Click for picture 3 golden state plate
T  What does California usually symbolize?
Why is it called the golden state?

Students answer
Cinema / Hollywood LA  sun  surf  beaches  San Francisco
The gold rush?

Click for pictures 2 and 4
T  What is the city of San Francisco associated with?

Students answer
The golden gate bridge, hills, cable cars

Click for picture 1 of surfers
T  What does the spirit of surf convey?

Students answer
California surfers took to skateboards as a way to stay fit out of season, and by 1963, the fad had spread across the country.

T  Have you ever been to California? Is it a dream for you? Why / Why not?

Students answer
Click for next slide

Slide 6  The age of rock 'n' roll
Click for picture 1
T  What/who comes to your mind when you hear the phrase rock 'n' roll?

Students answer
Click for captions on the left
T  What makes it so specific? You can get some help in the captions?

Students answer
crooners like Frank Sinatra  /  country music  /  blues  /  new Orleans jazz

Click for pictures 2 and 3 of radio and juke box, and captions
T  Where could teenagers of that time listen to music?
Students answer
T Was the radio a revolution? And what about TV?
Students answer
Click for picture 4 and captions on the right
T Why do you think rock 'n' roll created a generation gap?
Students answer
Because most parents thought this music was revolting or provocative
T How do you understand this expression “at odds with parents”?
Students answer
clashes conflicts disagreements
T Do you still listen to rock 'n' roll music today? Why/not?
Students answer
T Do you believe children could be at odds with parents / there could be a generation gap today / because of a music you listen to? Because of a music genre? If so can you give an example? Do you happen to be at odds with your parents because of the music you listen to?
Students answer
Yes, some parents hate heavy metal or rap.
Click for next slide

Slide 7  Rebels and icons
Click to pictures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 but don’t show names
T Who do you recognize in these pictures?
Students answer
Click for all names
T Who is really outdated? Who is still an icon today?
Students answer
James Dean     Jim Morrison
T Why do you think they were called rebels? Why were they icons for their generation?
Students answer
T What did they rebel against?
Students answer
Family life and authority
They wanted to have their own way
T Did they live an American dream? Are they typically American?
Students answer
T What names in the music or film industry today symbolize a form of rebellion?
Students answer
Kurt Cobain  Marylyn Manson  Rap ............

T  In what way does this rebellion differ from / or look like the rebellion of the sixties?
Students answer
Teenagers were defined as a separate generation and were represented by James Dean who wore blue jeans in Rebel without a Cause and created a fashion and attitude sensation

Click for next slide

Slide 8  Cold war … hot weapons 5’
Click for picture 1 and all boxes
T  Do you recognize these two men?
Students answer
T  What happened between the two superpowers in the 60s?
Students answer
T  What was the major threat? And why?
Students answer
  It was definitely the nuclear threat
Click for picture 2.
T  What happened in Cuba in 1962? What do you know about the Cuban missile crisis?
Students answer
T  What could have happened?
Students answer
  It could have been the beginning of WW3. They could have used nuclear missiles.
T  When did this cold war finish?
Students answer
T  Is there a similar situation today between superpowers?
Students answer
  Maybe with countries like Iran or North Korea.
T  Where is there a possible nuclear threat? Are you concerned about the situation? Why?
Students answer
Click for next slide

Slide 9  "There’s a shadow hanging over me"  5’
Click for pictures 1 and 2  John and Bob Kennedy and boxes
T  Do these words ring a bell? They are lyrics from the song “Yesterday” by the Beatles.
Students answer
T  What do you know about the Kennedy family?
Students answer

T Was John Kennedy president for a long time? What if you compare with Bill Clinton or George W. Bush?

Students answer
He was elected in 60 and assassinated in 63. It’s a very short period compared with Clinton who was president for 8 years.

T Why do you think the Kennedys were called the “royals of America”?

Students answer
Click for picture 3 and 4 + text boxes
T What happened to John Kennedy? Why are pictures of Dallas and a sniper shown here?

Students answer
He was shot in Dallas officially by Lee Harvey Oswald but probably by other snipers too.

T And what about Bob?

Students answer
He was assassinated during his presidential campaign in 1968.

T What is a curse? Is there a curse on the Kennedys? Why this question then? Can you give more examples of a curse on the family?

Students answer
Click to show last box
T Could you name a Kennedy who is in politics today?

Students answer
Click for next slide

Slide 10 “I have a dream” 5'
T Again this sentence is very famous. Who pronounced these words?

Students answer
Martin Luther King.

Click for picture of MLK only
T And what do you know about Martin Luther King?

Students answer
T In what context? What was the situation like for black people in America in the early sixties?

Students answer
Segregation was still the norm in many states, especially in the south.

**Click for all pictures and boxes**

**T** What form of protest did MLK and his supporters chose? Do you think they were right? Why/not? Especially if you remember that black leader Malcolm X preached “black nationalism” and “the black Panthers” became more radical a few years after.

**Students answer**

They preferred peaceful forms of protests.

**T** What event took place on august 28, 1963? What was the purpose?

**Students answer**

A March on Washington for jobs and equality.

**T** What happened to MLK?

**Students answer**

He was assassinated in 1968.

**T** Can you say that today MLK’s dream has become reality? Why/not? Could he have foreseen the situation in America 50 years later?

**Students answer**

Click for next slide

---

**Slide 11  Walking on the moon** 5’

**Click for picture 1**

**T** Remember what we said about the two superpowers? So why do you think there was a space race in the second part of the decade?

**Students answer**

Click for box with landmarks of the space race.

**T** What are the main landmarks on the American side? Get some help in the box.

**Students answer**

Click for picture 2

**T** What’s the headline on the newspaper? What event does it refer to?

**Students answer**

*man (American men) walking on the moon for the very first time.*

**T** Why “the eagle”? Can patriotic pride be felt in this title?

**Students answer**

*the eagle is the emblem of the United States.*

**T** Do you know someone around you/in family/among older friends who remembers the event?
Students answer
Click for caption
T  What was left on the moon as a reminder of the event?
Students answer
  a plaque and a flag
T  Would you be interested if America resumed a space odyssey? Why? Why not?
Students answer
Click for next slide

Slide 12   Vietnam
Click for pic 3 + text
T  Vietnam (a former French colony in Indochina) was divided into two parts, which part did the USA support?
Students answer
Click for pic 1 and 2 + text boxes
T  To prevent communist North Vietnam from overtaking South Vietnam, the United States sent military advisors and then soldiers. What do you remember about this conflict?
Students answer
T  Then the conflict divided American public opinion. People were either pro or anti Vietnam war. Can you guess what side the hawks were on?
Students answer
  the hawks were pro war as opposed to the doves.
T  What does the dove usually symbolise?
Students answer
  it's a symbol of peace
T  Because of the conflict in Vietnam the draft was accelerated but there was a growing anti-war sentiment in the country so there were draft dodgers who refused to go to Vietnam. Many of whom fled to Canada
T  Do you understand what draft dodgers are? Can you understand their decision? What would you have done in their place?
Students answer
T  Have you seen films about the Vietnam War? Which ones? Did you like them? Why/not?
Students answer
Click for next slide
As you already know, there was an anti-war feeling in the public opinion as the war went on during the sixties and early seventies, college campuses became centres of debate and there were scenes of protests more than ever before. But anti-war sentiment was also strong among the youth in general. How do you picture an American campus?

Students answer

What sort of actions did they take to show disapproval about the war? Find some help in the wordboxes.

Students answer

What do students do today when they oppose a reform?

Students answer

Have you ever participated in a protest or a march? Where and why?

Students answer

What can the expression counter culture refer to?

Can you comment on the poster? What does that mean for you? What comes to your mind when you look at it?

What do you associate with the word “hippy”?

Does the Woodstock festival ring a bell?

It was a time of huge music festivals: Woodstock / the Isle of Wight. It is usually called "the pinnacle of the hippy movement".

Using the pictures and the captions, can you sum up the spirit of this counter culture?

Students answer
What do you think is left today of that period? Does it seem a long time ago? If not who could represent it today?

Students answer

T I would like you to build sentences using the past perfect in the condition clause and the past infinitive in the main clause.

Teacher gives an example
if the dream had lived on we would have.... / there would have been...

Students make sentence

T Now let’s have a quick recap!

Click for next slide

Slide 15 RECAP

Now give me a short definition for each of the following words, name or expression.

Click to show picture and ‘baby boom’

Students answer

Click for Civil Rights

Students answer

Click for space race

Students answer

Click for hippy

Students answer

Click for John Kennedy

Students answer

Click for counter culture

Students answer

Click for Martin Luther King

Students answer

Click for cold war

Students answer

T There was so much to talk about! Thank you very much indeed for your interest but it’s time to say good bye! See you next week!