Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ HW#12 – An Era of Social Change

**Latinos and Native**

**Americans Seek Equality**

***MAIN IDEA*** *Latinos and Native Americans confronted*

*injustices in the 60s.*

Latinos—Americans with a heritage in Latin

American—are a diverse group that tripled to

more than 9 million people in the decade of the

1960s. The largest group is Mexican Americans,

but about a million Puerto Ricans, hundreds of thousands of Cubans, and tens of thousands of other

Hispanics add to these numbers. Many Latinos

encounter poor living conditions and discrimination.

In the 1960s Latinos began to demand equal

rights—and respect for their culture and heritage.

Cesar Chavez organized Mexican American farm

workers into a union to boost wages and improve

working conditions. By calling for a nationwide

boycott of grapes, Chavez pressured grape growers

into recognizing his union and granting a new,

more favorable, contract.

Responding to calls for greater recognition of

Hispanics’ culture, Congress passed the Bilingual

Education Act in 1968. It funded bilingual and

cultural programs for students who didn’t speak

English. Latinos also organized politically, fielding

Hispanic candidates for office.

Native Americans, too, are a diverse group,

with hundreds of tribes having unique traditions.

Concerned about the high unemployment rate,

poor health care, and high death rate common to

all these groups, many Native Americans joined

together in the 1960s to work for change.

The Eisenhower administration had hoped to

solve such problems by relocating Native Americans

to cities, but the policy failed—first because

urban Native Americans remained poor and second

because many Native Americans did not wish to

assimilate into American society. They wished to

preserve their own cultures. In 1961, representatives

from more than 60 Native American groups

wrote a Declaration of Indian Purpose. They

demanded the right for Native Americans to

choose their own way of life.

President Johnson changed government policy

toward Native Americans, but many young people

wanted that change faster. They formed the

American Indian Movement (AIM), which confronted the government in highly public actions

that sometimes resulted in violence. Meanwhile,

laws and court decisions gave Native Americans

greater rights over the education of their children

and renewed land rights.

**Women Fight for Equality**

***MAIN IDEA*** *Through protests and marches, women*

*confronted social and economic barriers in American*

*society.*

Women struggled for decades and finally won

the right to vote in 1920. Then, in the 1960s,

a reawakened feminist movement expanded the

effort for women’s rights to urge full social, political,

and economic equality.

Contributing to the feminist movement was dissatisfaction over the situation in the workplace. By

1960, about 40 percent of all women worked outside

the home. But they found certain jobs closed

to them, and they were generally paid much less

than men even for the same job. Involvement in

the civil rights and antiwar movements also led

many women to actively seek improved status for

themselves. Betty Friedan’s book about the dissatisfaction of women helped inspire many to join

together as well.

The 1964 Civil Rights Act included a ban on

discrimination based on gender. As a result, the

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

(EEOC) was empowered to oppose job discrimination against women as well as against African Americans. When the EEOC did not pursue

women’s complaints vigorously, Friedan and others

formed the National Organization for Women

(NOW) to actively seek equal rights. Responding to

pressure from NOW, the EEOC took steps to combat

job discrimination against women. It declared

that job ads identifying a specific gender were illegal and prevented employers from refusing to hire women for traditionally male jobs.

The women’s movement included many diverse

groups, some of whom pushed for radical goals.

Many women were pleased by a 1973 Supreme

Court decision, *Roe* v. *Wade,* which granted women

the right to choose an abortion. The women’s

movement failed, however, to win passage of the

Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). The ERA passed

Congress and was ratified by many states. However,

a coalition of social conservatives and others

opposed the ERA, claiming that it would have disruptive effects on society. Though 35 states did

approve the amendment, this still wasn’t enough to

pass it. The ERA died in June of 1982.

The women’s movement had nevertheless made

great gains. More women were attending law and

medical school than before, and colleges offered

thousands of courses on women’s issues. Many

women now viewed their careers in a new light,

and more women than ever served in state and

national governments.

**Culture and Counterculture**

***MAIN IDEA*** *The ideals and lifestyle of the counterculture*

*movement challenged the traditional views of*

*Americans.*

During the 1960s, many young people adopted

values that differed from those of mainstream

culture. This movement, the “counterculture,”

challenged the dominant American culture but

eventually collapsed from a lack of organization and

a reliance on drug use.

The counterculture—whose members were

called “hippies”—believed that American society

had grown too materialistic and aggressive. Many

with these beliefs channeled their energies into

protesting the war in Vietnam. Hippies chose to

show their opposition to society by leaving it. They

abandoned school and jobs and went to live with

each other, hoping to promote peace and love.

The main characteristics of this new life were

rock ’n’ roll, colorful clothes, and the use of drugs.

Their outrageous costumes and long hair symbolized

their rejection of society. Instead of forming

traditional families, hippies joined together in

group living arrangements called communes.

Two highly publicized incidents of violence

involving communes and rock music cast a shadow

over the counterculture. Continued drug use

caused problems and led to the deaths of two

major popular rock stars in 1970. Finally, hippies

found that they could not survive outside mainstream

society.

While the hippie counterculture collapsed, it

had an impact on mainstream culture. The worlds

of art and fashion were touched by the rebellious

style of the counterculture. Blue jeans—popular

among hippies—have become a staple of American

wardrobes.

Rock ’n’ roll has continued to be a popular form

of entertainment, propelled by the British group

the Beatles and by a massive outdoor concert called

Woodstock held in 1969 in New York state.

Attended by more than 400,000 people—far more

than expected—Woodstock became a symbol of

the counterculture.

While some people embraced the counterculture’s

“do your own thing” philosophy, millions of

mainstream Americans attacked the increasing permissiveness as a sign of moral decay. They believed that campus rebels and other members of the

counterculture threatened traditional values. This

conservative reaction to the counterculture movement

helped Richard M. Nixon win the presidency

in 1968 and set the nation on a more politically

conservative course.

**Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper**

1. What did Latinos do to fight for equality?

2. What did Native Americans want?

3. Describe the successes and failures of the women’s movement in the 1960s.

4. What caused the downfall of the counterculture and what lasting value did it have?