

1980s

TEEN CULTURE: Teen culture of the 1980s was characterized by materialism, free sex, and self-expression. With a national debt of \$2 trillion, and an attendance of 20 million people at the movies each week, mass consumerism was at its peak.ⁱ

FASHION

The 80s were all about neon colors, leotards & tights, oversized sweaters & varsity jackets, knee-high socks or even no socks at all. Shoulder pads were especially popular, and much of the fashion was inspired by Madonna and other celebrities.^{iv}

DANCE

- Breakdancing began as a form of street dancing in the 1970s but quickly established a presence all its own. Influenced heavily by hip hop, breakdancers would often perform challenging moves that required much physical strength.
- Slamdancing became popular after the advent of punk and heavy metal. It consists of slamming into other people and jumping up and down to heavy metal. This ultimately developed into the mosh pits found at many concerts today.
- Other famous dances include the Moonwalk, the Worm, and the Electric Slideⁱⁱⁱ

MUSIC

- Sexy and Direct
 - Samantha Fox - "Touch Me" (1986)
 - Poison - "Talk Dirty to Me" (1986)
- Sugary, Sweet, and Romantic
 - Michael Jackson and Paul McCartney - "Say Say Say" (1983)
 - Duran Duran - "Save a Prayer" (1982)ⁱⁱ
- Cold War: Musicians voiced their opinion about the Cold War through meaningful lyrics.
 - U2 - "Bullet the Blue Sky" (1987)
 - Iron Maiden - "2 Minutes to Midnight" (1984)

COUNTER-CULTURE: During the 1980s, a wave of reform regarding the faults of society came from American youth. Some examples of this included anti-nuclear protests and the Straight Edge Movement. These movements fought against the harmful parts of American culture and promoted newer and safer ways of life. The results of the reformation can be seen widely today in the form of safe-sex, the war on drugs, and more.

STRAIGHT EDGE MOVEMENT

A lifestyle adopted by many people during the 1980s that had to do with abstaining from unsafe sex, drug-use, and alcohol. Those who practiced straight-edge drew an X or tattooed it on themselves.^v

FEMINIST MOVEMENT

This was characterized by the masculine image that some women adopted. It is reflected in the shoulder pads on the "power suit" worn by many women. In addition, female teen clothing became very similar to male teen clothing. The singer Madonna also tries to empower women in her songs, such as "Daddy Don't Preach".^{vi}

ANTI-NUCLEAR PROTESTS

With more nuclear plants in existence, dissatisfied Americans continued protesting against local plants. In addition, the increasing tensions from the Cold War worried Americans about a nuclear war. They wanted a faster denuclearization of America.^{vii}

ⁱ myyouchoose.com, "Some Interesting '80s Facts." Accessed June 3, 2013. <http://www.myyouchoose.com/208/some-interesting-80s-facts>

ⁱⁱ Like Totally 80s, "Pick-up Lines Inspired by 80s Songs." Accessed June 4, 2013. <http://www.liketotally80s.com/80s-pick-up-lines.html>

ⁱⁱⁱ wiseGEEK "What Are the Common Dances from the 1980s?" Accessed June 4, 2013. <http://www.wisegeek.org/what-are-the-common-dances-from-the-1980s.htm>

^{iv} Like Totally 80s, "Top 10 80s Fashion Trends." Accessed June 4, 2013. <http://www.liketotally80s.com/top-80s-fashion-trends.html>

^v Subculture list, "Straight edge." Accessed June 4, 2013. <http://subcultureslist.com/straight-edge/>

^{vi} Like Totally 80s, "The Madonna Look - Strike a Pose." Accessed June 4, 2013. <http://www.liketotally80s.com/madonna-look.html>

^{vii} Wikipedia, "Anti-nuclear protests in the United States." Accessed June 4, 2013. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-nuclear_protests_in_the_United_States