

Connecting to the '60s Puzzle
Activity
At the New Jersey Vietnam Era Museum &
Educational Center



Information Sheet



Interested in having your students come to the Vietnam Era Museum & Educational Center to learn about the '60s?

The *Connecting to the '60s Puzzle Activity* is an *optional* 45 minute activity that students can use to explore our exhibition during a school trip to the museum. By grounding the important events and figures of the time period into social, popular, and political movements and making them concrete through the use of photographs, primary documents, and objects, students will gain a broader understanding of this complex time in United States History.

Call the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation today to book a trip. Hurry, fall and spring dates fill up quickly!

School trips also include a tour of the NJ Vietnam Veterans' Memorial led by a Vietnam Veteran tour guide. For information please read our "Dear Educator" letter, attached.

**New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial
Vietnam Era Museum & Educational Center**
1 Memorial Lane, P.O. Box 648, Holmdel, New Jersey 07733
9732) 335-0033 ~ Fax (732) 335-1107~ website: www.njvvmf.org

Teaching with Objects Classroom Activity

The best place to teach students about a topic using objects and images is in a museum. However, classroom activities utilizing the same interactive approach can help engage students. Use the classroom activity below to help bring this learning approach with your students.

Exploring the '60s through objects

Essential Question: *What do common household objects tell us about America in the 1960s?*

1. Ask students to bring in objects their parents or grandparents may have that are from the 1960s. Examples include: dolls, toys, books, etc. Students should ask the person why they kept the object and what it means to him or her.
2. Have students research the object's history through the library and internet.
3. Ask students to bring in their own modern version of the object (or a photo of a modern version). For example, a metal lunchbox from 1965 would be paired with a plastic or vinyl lunchbox from today.
4. Students should report to their classmates the history of the '60s object, the discussion they had with the owner, and compare and contrast the object with their modern object.
5. Ask students what their object says about America in the 1960s. What can they conclude about some aspect of what life was like for people in the '60s based on the object?

One Step Further: Making Connections

Students can develop this activity even further by picking a topic that best fit their objects. These topics help students relate the past to the present.

Topics could include:

- Women in the 1960s and Today
- Leisure Activities of the 1960s and Today
- The Beginning of Television to Today
- Politicians from 1960s to Today

Students can then break into groups by their topic and discuss what they learned.