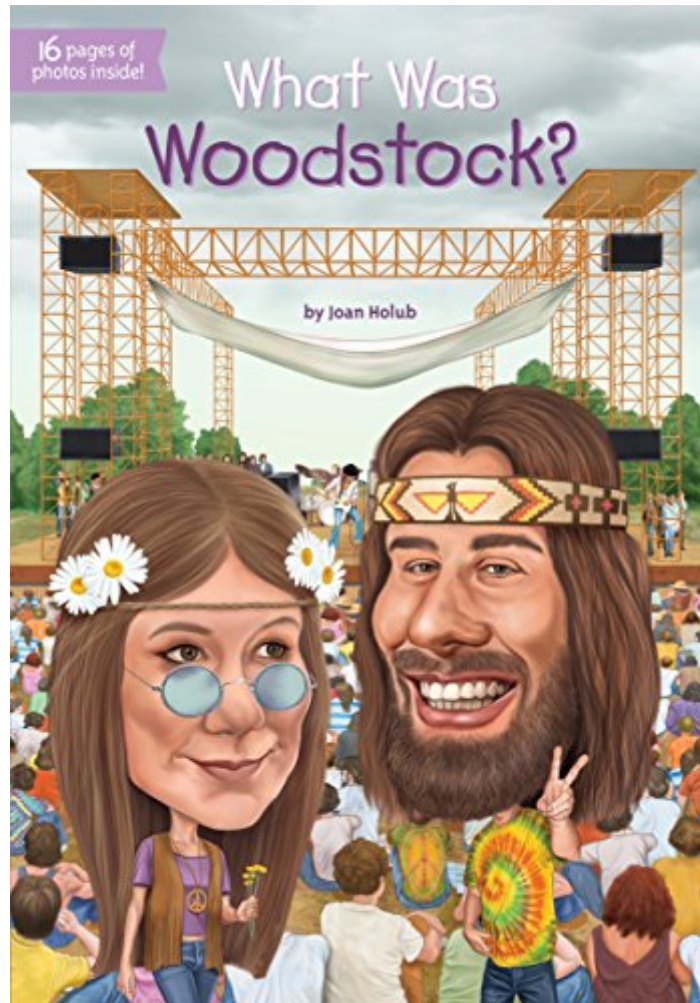


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# What Was Woodstock? (What Was...?)



## Synopsis

On August 15, 1969, a music festival called "Woodstock" transformed one small dairy farm in upstate New York into a gathering place for over 400,000 young music fans. Concert-goers, called "hippies," traveled from all over the country to see their favorite musicians perform. Famous artists like The Grateful Dead played day and night in a celebration of peace, love, and happiness. Although Woodstock lasted only three days, the spirit of the festival has defined a generation and become a symbol of the "hippie life." American Association of University Women Award for Juvenile Literature 2016 Nominee. From the Trade Paperback edition.

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## Customer Reviews

This book is part of the Who, What, Where series of books written largely for the beginning reader and pre-teen audience. Woodstock is one of the most famous events in the 1960s, one of the most tumultuous decades in American history. Not only does this book portray in words, drawings and photos, the Woodstock music festival, but it furnishes a birds-eye view of the history of the 1960s. Well-written concise profiles of the Vietnam War, political and social change, and sixties

slang are included. There are time lines of the sixties for the United States as well as one of events happening around the globe. An age appropriate bibliography for additional reading on these topics is also included. Music promoter, Michael Lang conceived the concert idea. Desiring to open up a recording studio for young artists in Woodstock, about 120 miles north of New York City, he convinced Artie Kornfield of Capitol Records that this was a good idea. While playing a game of pool one night, they decided to raise money for their project by having a giant outdoor music concert. They needed a large space, security, lighting, outdoor toilets, food, water, a stage and lots of music bands. Problem after problem arose. Their plans fell through and the location was changed three times. Eventually, they contracted with a local farmer, Max Yasgur in Bethel, NY. They planned for 50,000 people, but 500,000 came. The roads were so clogged that people had to walk ten miles from their cars, and bands had to be flown in by helicopter. A thunderstorm threatened to destroy it, but the three day event in August, 1969 became a message of peace and hope for people young and old. Well-known artists like Jimi Hendrix and Joan Baez played as well as then unknowns like Santana and Credence Clearwater Revival.

Woodstock, is still today known for being more than a small town in Upstate New York. It became a place for three days where many of the young, frustrated by the perils that loomed over the country in the 60s became a place of peace, freedom and love. The Woodstock Festival was created and visualized by a bunch of young idealist. Two who knew a lot of the culture at the time, especially 24 year old Music Promoter Michael Lang who wanted to start his own recording studio in Woodstock so musicians would not have travel to the city. With ideas comes the need for potential investors to back your project up, in 1968 , Lang met Artie Kornfeld, vice president of Capital Records. Though Kornfeld did not agree with Lang's idea of creating a studio, they became friends. What Lang and Kornfeld would come up with would be a idea of a lifetime, iconic. In 1969 Lang and Kornfeld would meet two business men roughly the same age as they were. They were not interested in so much of opening a studio in Woodstock but the marketing for their own studio they had in New York City. John Robert and Joel Rosenman new business so they thought, together with Lang and Kornfeld they came up with a company called Woodstock Ventures Inc., the concert of a lifetime would be called Woodstock Music and Art Fair or soon shortened to just Woodstock. What Woodstock would become is a concert of lifetime, it would take place in this small area in Bethel, New York. As young as 18 were being drafted to war, people feared communism would some how would soon be seen in the United States. A war well known and also one that still holds many regrets, resentment, anger, and many questions.

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