

Study Guide for “Commune” with web links

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California State University at San Marcos <http://www.csusm.edu>

Life in the Sixties

www.answers.com/topic/1960s-1

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/newsid_3907000/3907817.stm

<http://kclibrary.nhmccd.edu/decade60.html>

What are the contributing factors you believe to be responsible for people wanting to move to a place like Black Bear?

Did the film help to raise your awareness of the issues facing people in the 60s? if so, what were they?

What relevance do some of the issues raised 40 years ago have in today's society? Are we dealing with different problems or are we still struggling with the same issues?

If we are dealing with the same issues, what does this mean?

Feminism

<http://feminism.eserver.org/>

<http://www.cddc.vt.edu/feminism/>

www.ladiesagainstfeminism.com/

What issues regarding the role of women at the ranch did the film raise? Do those issues seem like they would be relevant in the outside world at that time?

Do you think that they would be relevant now?

Did the film highlight any issues surrounding sexual equality that you previously were unaware of? If so, what were they?

The people of Black Bear all had different reasons for initially moving there. Do you think these reasons may have been different between the men and the women?

Communal Living/Intentional Communities

www.thefarm.org/lifestyle/cmnl.html

www.ic.org/

www.aarpmagazine.org/lifestyle/rethinking_the_commune.html

How did the film help to raise your awareness of the way a commune began and what it was like to live there?

Does this seem like a valid choice even today?

What do you see as the 'pros' and 'cons' of living in such a society?

Did the film help to highlight the way in which living in a society like that could help global issues such as global warming, self-sufficiency, political oppression etc? If so, how?

Now that they have returned to regular society, what effect, if any, did you think that the commune had on the residents of Black Bear?

Self-sufficiency

www.selfsufficientish.com/

www.articlesbase.com/environment-articles/being-self-sufficient-with-alternative-energy-51914.html

www.planeteearthhome.com/article.html

www.geteasyinfo.com/alternatenergy/

What can be learned from the people of Black Bear in terms of their efforts to be self-sufficient? Were they self-sufficient enough?

What has changed, if anything, between the 60s and present day in the way that we produce and consume energy?

Given the energy situation we find ourselves in the 21st Century, do you think a place like Black Bear can be justified? Do you think that it is a valid lifestyle choice or a way of burying our heads in the sand and simply 'opting out'?

Natural Childbirth

www.naturalchildbirth.org

www.byggpub.com/natural/

www.socalbirth.org/shelly/whynat.htm

What do you think the positive and negative elements of natural childbirth are?

Do you feel that the film gives a positive image of natural childbirth?

What do you think has contributed to the decrease in natural childbirth and the increase in 'Medicated' in recent history?

The Environment

www.epa.gov/

www.environmentalism.com/

www.actionbioscience.org/environment/hinrichsen_robey.html

www.gefweb.org/

[www.washingtonpost.com/wp-](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/09/20/AR2006092001697.html)

dyn/content/article/2006/09/20/AR2006092001697.html

www.ourplanet.com/imgversn/133/watson.html

www.globalwarming.org/

What are the major contributors to global warming?

Are you aware of the steps our Government is taking to help? Do you feel that the US is being sufficiently responsible for its actions?