



## Bowling, Beatniks, and Bell-Bottoms: Pop Culture of 20th and 21st Century America ( 6 Volume Set)

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Features: Index; Tables of Contents: by decade, alphabetical, by topic; Reader's Guide; Timeline; For More Information; "Where to Learn More" bibliography.

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### **Editorial Review**

From School Library Journal

Gr 6 Up-With articles on commerce, film and theater, music, sports, TV, food, fashion, and other aspects of life, this set presents the most important people, places, or things in recent U.S. history, decade by decade. The cross-referenced articles, which vary from less than a page to two pages in length, are fact-filled and lively. As well as adding information on the 21st century, many of the articles have been updated with additional further-reading resources since the 2002 edition; there are also more illustrations and they are now in color. Entries are listed in alphabetical order and by topic category. While the "Cultural History of the United States Through the Decades" series (Lucent) offers similar coverage, it provides fewer illustrations and additional resources; Gale's "American Decades" series boasts more information but is aimed at older users. Students who need information for reports will find good introductory information and a solid base for further research here, and general users will find quick short answers to historical questions. With the push in the Common Core Standards for more text complexity and the use of narrative nonfiction, teachers will also appreciate this work.--Ann West LaPrise, Huron School District, New Boston, MI(c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

An attempt to span the whole of pop culture and contextualize its influence on American society, the 850 articles included in this six-volume set cover a myriad of fascinating topics—ranging from Betty Boop, the invention of ballpoint pens, and Saran Wrap to spring break, Hurricane Katrina, Napster, and So You Think You Can Dance? A solid update, the second edition of this fascinating set adds a sixth volume devoted to the first decade of the twenty-first century, and supplements the previous edition's black-and-white illustrations with the inclusion of approximately 400 color photos. As in the prior edition, each volume begins with a complete alphabetical list of entries and a time line of the twentieth and early twenty-first century and closes with a comprehensive index. Coverage of each decade opens with a concise overview and an "At a Glance" sidebar that outlines what Americans read, said, wrote, and listened to and popular figures of the time. These features, as well as the extensive cross-referencing of topics within entries, make this resource exceedingly simple for students to navigate. The signed articles, ranging in length from 150 to 1,000 words, are arranged alphabetically within nine topic categories: "Commerce," "Fashion," "Film and Theater," "Food and Drink," "Music," "Print Culture," "Sports and Games," "TV and Radio" (where applicable), and "The Way We Lived." Though the individual articles are brief, they are informative and engagingly written, and they provide the historical context for each particular trend or fad examined. Each article concludes with a list of resources for further research on individual topics that students will, more than likely, find necessary to supplement their research. A bibliography of print and web resources related to the decades covered and geared toward students precedes the index in each volume. A worthy edition to any middle-school library reference collection. Public libraries may want to consider as a supplemental purchase. Grades 6-12. --Magan Szwerek

### **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Cheree Rodriquez:**

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