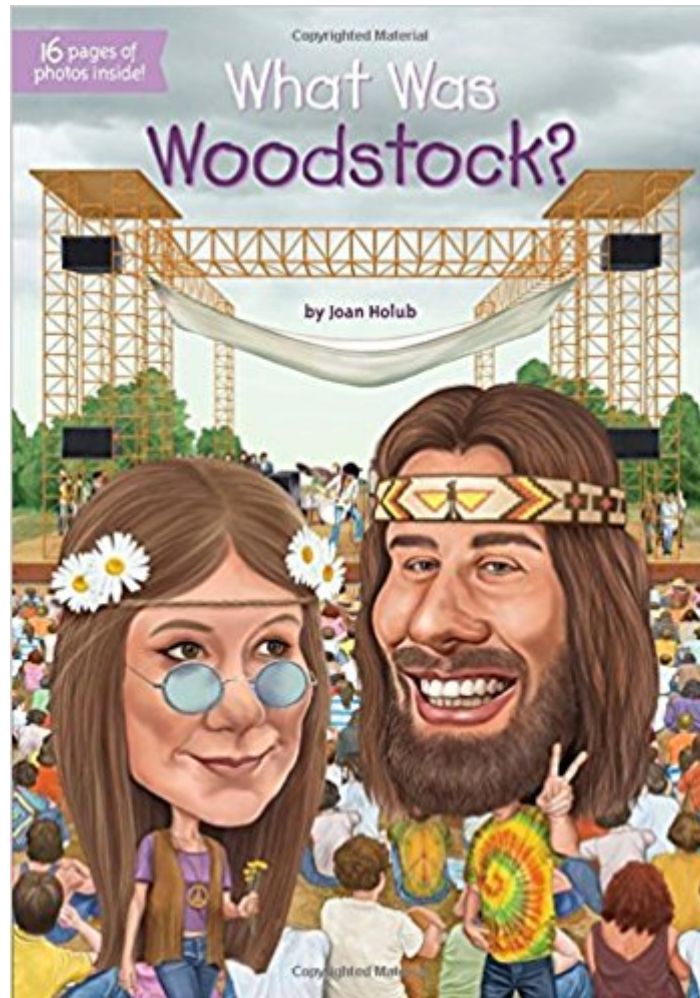




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# What Was Woodstock?



## 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.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Joan Holub is the author of [What Was the First Thanksgiving?](#), [What Was the Gold Rush?](#), and other Who Was...? titles, including [Who Was Marco Polo?](#) and [Who Was Babe Ruth?](#)

What Was Woodstock? [Woodstock](#) was an outdoor rock festival in a small New York town. It took place over three days in August of 1969. Doesn't it sound like anything so special, does it? Yet, today, so many years later, Woodstock has become part of the history of the 1960s. [Woodstock](#)

About fifty thousand people were expected to come. Surprise! Ten times that many showed up—almost half a million people! No concert had ever attracted so many fans. Thirty-two of the hottest rock and folk bands performed onstage. It was a happening—hippie slang for a super-exciting event for cool people. Woodstock could have been a disaster. The four guys in charge hardly had any experience planning a festival. And a lot did go wrong. Traffic jams for miles around blocked the way to the concert. It rained during the performances, and the electricity went out. There was not nearly enough food or water for the crowd. There weren't enough bathrooms. Sounds terrible, doesn't it? As the festival began, TV and newspapers reported that it was a great big mess. Families panicked. Were their teenagers who'd gone to Woodstock safe? Some people wanted to send in soldiers to stop the festival before it really got started. They expected riots that weekend at Woodstock. Many thought the festival would be a flop. It wasn't. It was exactly the opposite. It was out of sight, which in the 1960s meant awesome. The crowd at Woodstock thought the music was amazing. Many of the musicians were wowed by the good-natured crowd, too. And nearby townspeople were surprised to discover that the young fans were mostly nice and polite. The year 1969 was an unhappy time in the United States. Many young people were angry about a far-off war in Southeast Asia. They felt misunderstood and ignored. They were looking for peace, love, and freedom. For three days, that's what they found at Woodstock.

My kid loved it. I loved our discussion the book elicited. LOL!!!

Great biography series that all kids will enjoy. My students (4th grade) can't seem to put them down. I've had them in my room for the last few years and they just eat them up. The content is easy to understand and it provides great information on each person/topic along with a timeline in the back. Great for parents and teachers alike.

Bought for the grandkiddos, they love them, thanks!!!!

Awesome book but some bits aren't too cheerful great book for 8 year olds totally awesome recommended read. Great for book reports

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. The organizers made no money. Despite its success, organizers wound up letting everyone in free because they could not manage to collect tickets. Young pre teen readers will love this book. History, music and popular culture are woven together into a mesmerizing look at sixties people, places and things. Readers absorb a great deal of knowledge without even realizing it. Highly recommended for students, teachers, parents and all those baby boomers who lived through or have heard about Woodstock.

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. So many lives lost, people, especially the young Baby Boomers just wanted peace, a place for a few days or hours to forget the turmoil of the war. That is what the Woodstock Festival brought. The festival also had its downs, for the co-founders and creators, money was lost, it would fall as one of the worst investments of a life time. After lawsuits, and payments made for damages and cleaning, there was no money left. It was great advertisement for the band that did show, it also proved you could gather people in weather that was not the greatest and still avoid a mass riot. Don't get me wrong there fights but for astronomical size it could have been worse. What Was Woodstock? By Joan Holub covers the ups and downs of a Era for so many was hard and dealing with was not easy. A war, where our soldiers came back changed, with lack of support from their own country. Also we were fighting our own problems, war, inside the United States, a civil rights war, a fight for equality, diversity, and more. Joan goes over the lingo used such as hippies, Peace out, Bummer, Flower Child, Off the wall, Psychedelic, and more. Joan also discusses briefly what was happening in the 60's, the war, civil rights, change that was taking place, assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., Deaths of not one but two Kennedys who the country adored. The author also discusses the history of the peace sign and the "look" or way of dress of a hippie. The book covers the ups and downs of one the largest outdoor music festivals that literally was thrown together but the Era itself. The book covers a lot on a topic that so much happened. The author takes important facts and even condensed covers a lot of material. This book I found to be impressive because I have read many on Woodstock, but they focus on how good it was, how special, the history it made. The author of What Was Woodstock? Does not just cover the ups of such a giant music festival, but focuses on the very beginning, about the men who started it, a bit of their background to the challenges they faced and had to overcome just to find a sight to hold it. With the focus being on the festival, author Joan Holub goes through the lingo, the dress,

what the country was going through, and more. I recommended this book to those who are just being introduced to the Woodstock Festivals history, to those who want to learn more even those who just want a refresher of the topic. Also there is a list of book suggestions that cover topics and the 1960s. This is a book that young readers will not only learn history but will also enjoy the simple illustrations to showcase a point or support and the 16 photos that are included from the Woodstock Festival itself. It's a book I would recommend, for young readers to adults.

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