The Beat Generation and Beatniks

By Andrew O’Connell and Jimmy Magnier
What had happened?

The Beat Generation was headed by writers Allen Ginsberg and Jack Kerouac. They had written about the cons of materialism and wanted more cultural freedom.
Important People of Beatniks

Jack Kerouac
-Born March 12, 1922
-Attended New York’s Columbia University
-Planned on being a poet, but joined the Navy
-Went back to Columbia University and dropped out by fall
-Still living near the school his apartment was where Young intellectuals came and hang out
-Later in life he wrote *The Town and The City* After writing this he was called “best and most promising of the young novelists”
-Kerouac took in the spirit of the beatniks by writing in his books and poems as a message for the middle class to stop chasing material wealth
Allen Ginsberg

- Born June 3, 1926 in New Jersey
- Attended New York’s Columbia University
- Achieved recognition as a poet with the publication of “Howl” in 1956
- Later in 1956 he moved to the far east and became a public figure
- After continuing to write and was given the American Book award for his contributions to literature (1995).
What did they do?

-The Beat Generation was against several things
-Often wrote about the Government
What is a Beatnik?

A person that was part of the social movement during the 1950’s. The term beatnik comes from the Sputnik launch in Russia.

Wikipedia
Perspectives

Pro Beat generation: People who wanted cultural freedom and had wanted to rebel against traditional customs

Anti-Beat Generation: Liked traditional culture and wanted it to stay as it was
Sexism and Religion

The role of different sexual orientations played a part in The Beat generation, they were open to all people and did not discriminate based on sex or sexuality. They were also open to all religions.
The Beatniks had hoped to get rid of American Materialism and to get rid of discrimination. They hoped to start a Counterculture which they had succeeded in the beginning of the 1960’s.
The Beat Generation had definitely changed the lives and culture of some Americans. The Beat generation had gotten people to think differently about American culture and the traditional values of everyday Americans.


Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary

