

Music Genres



Specific focus: Hip Hop

W/C: 27th April 2020

The definition for hip-hop is as follows: a style of popular music of US black and Hispanic origin, featuring rap with an electronic backing. Is rap the same as hip-hop? There is often an overlap between these because rap is one of the main elements in hip hop. The key difference between rap and hip hop is that rap is a type of music genre whereas hip hop is a music genre, an artistic movement as well as a subculture.

Subject: Music/History

Activity Outcome: Create a timeline of famous hip-hop and rap artists.

Read the slides about the history of rap on the next few pages. Whenever an artist is mentioned, make a note of their name/names. Once you have completed reading each slide and noting the names, create a timeline to show when famous rap and hip-hop artists were born and died. A template for the timeline is available on page 7.

As an extension, you could make notes on your timeline about the most famous albums/songs from each artist and when they were released.

Subject: Music

Activity Outcome: Song review

It is really important to ensure that your parents/carers are aware of what you are watching on the internet. Although we think the songs are appropriate, speak to an adult about the songs you are about to watch.

Listen to the following songs on YouTube. Choose one of the songs and write a review. Answer the following questions:

- 1) Why do you like the song?
- 2) What do you think the message of the song is?
- 3) Use your prior knowledge of the music dynamics to discuss the rhythm, beat and pace of the song.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xpVfcZ0ZcFM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RvVfgvHucRY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T3E9Wjbq44E>

Subject: PE/Dance

Activity Outcome: Learn a hip-hop inspired dance.

Watch the YouTube videos below. Both videos give you a tutorial on how to dance like you are a hip-hop artist.

If you're feeling brave, with permission from an adult, record your dance and tweet it to us @FeatherstoneYR6

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LETsrDLloto>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nb_wLPAIqYM

Subject: Music—make your own beat!

Activity Outcome: Watch the YouTube clips from STOMP and make your own beat.

An essential part to a good hip-hop song is the beat and rhythm. With a catchy beat and rhythm, you can get your audience dancing in no time! Watch the following clips for inspiration and use a few household items to record a beat. I suggest using pots and pans along with a plastic cup or two. Can't find any instruments? Use your body!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ik8jICj8juc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zsXOehynKJ8>

What Is Rap?

Rapping essentially involves the speaking or chanting of rhyming lyrics, often set to a beat.

The rhyming created by rappers is considered by many to be one of the most sophisticated styles of poetry.

These rhymes often address provocative subjects such as violence and socio-political issues.

Where Did Rap Come From?

More than a century before rap exploded onto the American music scene, West African musicians were telling stories rhythmically, with just the beat of a drum for accompaniment. Meanwhile, folk artists from the Caribbean Islands were also telling stories in rhyme. These singing poets from Africa and the Caribbean lay the foundation for modern-day American rap music.



Who Made Rap Famous?

Rapping first gained popularity in the U.S. in the 1970s as a kind of street art, especially among African American teenagers. But it wasn't until 1979, when the Sugarhill Gang released their hit, 'Rapper's Delight', that record producers took notice of this emerging musical genre. Others were quickly to follow suit. In the first generation of rap artists were Grandmaster Flash, Africa Bambaataa and Kool Herc, all of whom initially made their name as DJs. Grandmaster Flash was the first rap artist to introduce social comment with his rap 'The Message'.



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Popular Rap Music

After this, numerous rap acts, including Run DMC and N.W.A., surfaced, and rap's audience began to grow. Before long, it was not just African American male artists who were performing rap music. By the 1980s, rap music diversified. Groups such as the Beastie Boys and Salt-n-Pepa were reaching the top of the charts.



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What Happened Next?

Rap continued to diversify throughout the 1980s. Run DMC stripped the backing down to thunderous beats and added rock guitars, before scoring a huge hit with their collaboration with Aerosmith on 'Walk This Way'. Meanwhile, The Beastie Boys mixed rap with their punk and metal music on their bestselling track ' Licence To Ill'.



Rap in the 90s

By the 1990s, rap matured from an old-school-style – which was based on relatively simple lyrics – to a new-school-style, which was louder and included more complex lyrics. Artists such as The Notorious B.I.G., Snoop Dogg and Tupac ruled the charts during this time.



What Happened Next?

Rivalry in Rap

One of the most influential figures in 90s rap music was ex-NWA member Dr Dre, co-founder of Death Row Records and producer of albums for Snoop Doggy Dog and Blackstreet. He represented rap on the west coast of the U.S.A. On the east coast, Sean Combs (a.k.a Puff Daddy) established Bad Boy records. Long standing rivalry between east and west were blamed for the violence which claimed the lives of legendary rap stars, Tupac Shakur and Notorious B.I.G.



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The Story Continues...

Outside of the Death Row / Bad Boy record labels, numerous acts continued to experiment with rap. The Fugees achieved massive popularity with their own blend of rap and soul, while New York artists The Wu-Tang Clan branched out. The Wu-Tang Clan were a direct influence on British rap acts like So Solid Crew. Women also fought back against rap's prevailing male culture, with Missy Elliot and Lil' Kim releasing albums of sassy hip hop records.

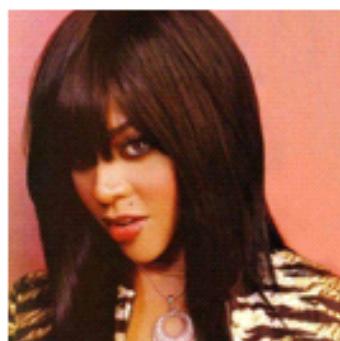


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Mainstream Rap

Eminem, alias Marshall Mathers, has aroused controversy and adulation in equal measure, but there is no denying his talents as a lyricist. His records, produced by Dr Dre, have become rap's biggest success since the days of the Beastie Boys. Eminem achieved huge mainstream success by winning an Oscar for Best Original Song.



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Rap Now

- Rap music is listened to by different people all over the world, and continues to grow and change.
- It has changed significantly from its origins, some people say for the worse. Lots of popular rap music of today is often criticised for glamorising crimes and substance abuse, as well as degrading women.

- However, some rap artists today produce 'conscientious hip hop'. Rapper Akala is a London rapper, poet and journalist. He produces rap with heavily researched facts and important messages. His lyrics often focus on social class struggle and political issues.



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The History of Rap/Hip-hop



Centuries before rap became popular, West-African artists were using drums to tell stories. This is where hip-hop originated from.