

Rap & Hip-Hop



**RAP = A RHYTHMIC, RHYMING SPEECH
THAT REPLACED SONG LYRICS.**

**HIP-HOP MUSIC = STYLIZED RHYTHMIC
MUSIC THAT COMMONLY ACCOMPANIES RAP**

Rap's Beginnings



- Although most popular in the mid-1980s, the style actually dates back to the late 1970s
- Developed through “Block Parties” in the neighborhoods and boroughs of NYC (Harlem, the Bronx, and Brooklyn)
- [“The Origins of Hip Hop”](#)

DJ Kool Herc



- Founding Father of Hip Hop
- developed the style that was the blueprint for hip hop music
 - Using a two turntable set-up of disco DJs, Herc used two copies of the same record to elongate the break.
 - Later adding additional music on top of the break
 - [The Merry Go Round Technique](#)

The Hip-Hop Culture



- Rap and Hip-Hop are often used synonymously.
 - Hip-Hop is the entire culture – Rap is just one of the elements of that culture
- 4 Key Stylistic Elements of The Hip-Hop Culture
 - - MCing/Rapping -----(Beatboxing)
 - - DJing/Scratching -----(Sampling)
 - - Break Dancing
 - - Graffiti Writing
 - ✦ [“The 4 Elements of The Hip-Hop Culture”](#)

Hip-Hop in the 1980s



- The 1980s marked the diversification of hip-hop as the genre developed more complex styles.
- Early Examples:
 - Grandmaster Flash and Furious Five
 - ✦ [“The Adventures of Grandmaster Flash on the Wheels of Steel”](#)
 - ✦ -Consisted entirely of sampled tracks
 - sampling is the act of taking a portion of a recording and reusing it as an instrument in a different song or piece.
 - Afrika Bambaataa
 - ✦ [“Planet Rock”](#)
 - ✦ -Fusion of Hip-Hop with Electro Music

The Sugarhill Gang



- Hip Hop Group originally from New Jersey
- “Rapper’s Delight” (1980)
 - The 1st Hip Hop single to hit the Top 40 on the Billboard 100
- Hip-Hop began its spread and became part of the music scene of several different countries
 - - UK
 - - Japan
 - - Australia
 - - South Africa
 - - France

New School of Hip-Hop



- 1983-84 is considered the second wave of Hip-Hop music. Again predominantly originated in NYC.
- Characterized by Drum Machine led minimalism, with influences from rock music.
- It was notable for its taunts and boasts about rapping – projecting a tough, cool, street attitude
 - [“Hard Times” - Run-DMC](#)
 - [“I Need a Beat” - LL Cool J](#)

The Golden Age of Hip-Hop



- Mid-1980s to early 1990s—characterized by its diversity, quality, innovation and influence
- Noted for its innovation – a time that every new single reinvented the genre
- Lyrics and topics began to reach a more aggressive theme



- - “My Philosophy” - Boogie Down Productions (1988)
 - Minimalist w/ sampling added
 - Saxophone
- - “Fight the Power” - Public Enemy (1989)
 - Rebelious lyrics
- - “Sabotage” - Beastie Boys (1994)
 - Elements of Heavy Metal & Grunge

East vs. West Rivalry



- A feud in the 1990s between artists and fans of the East Coast Hip-Hop & West Coast Hip-Hop scenes.
- West Coast Scene (LA Gangsta Rap)
 - Notable Figures : Ice-T; N.W. A.
 - Death Row Records
 - ✦ Dr. Dre
 - ✦ Tupac Shakur
 - ✦ Snoop Dog
- East Coast Scene
 - Notable Figures: Wu-Tang Clan; Jay-Z
 - Bad Boy Entertainment
 - ✦ Sean “Puff Daddy” Combs
 - ✦ Christopher Wallis (Notorious B.I.G.)

2000s & 2010s



- The popularity of Hip-Hop music continued through the 2000s and its influences have been incorporated into Mainstream pop.
 - Dr. Dre remains an important figure and is responsible for many careers.
 - ✦ - Eminem
 - ✦ - 50 cent
- **Jay-Z**
 - Represents a cultural triumph of Hip-Hop
 - Performing artist to label president, head of clothing line, club owner, and market consultant
 - Broke Elvis's record for most number one albums on the Billboard magazine charts by a solo artist

The Seattle Scene



- Grunge (Seattle Sound) - a subgenre of Alternative Rock that emerged during the mid-1980s and gained popularity during the 1990s.
- Musical Elements:
 - Heavily Distorted Electric Guitar
 - Contrasting Song Dynamics
 - “Growling” vocals and apathetic or angst-filled lyrics
 - Aesthetic was stripped down compared with other forms of rock - unkempt appearance, rejection of theatrics



- Grunge - VH1 Special
- **Groups of the Genre:**
 - Nirvana - “Smells Like Teen Spirit”
 - Pearl Jam - “Even Flow”

The Decline of Grunge Music



- Most grunge bands had disbanded or faded from view by the late 1990s
- Their influence continues to affect modern rock music
- The Decline of Grunge Music:
 - - Bands Broke up or were assimilated into Mainstream Rock
 - ✦ Peal Jam, Soundgarden,
 - - Nirvana's Kurt Cobain committed suicide at the age of 27 in 1994