

Knowledge Organiser: Rock and Roll



Topic Background

Rock and roll is a popular music genre that emerged from America in the 1950s. It has its roots in various African-American styles of music, such as rhythm and blues, jazz, gospel, and country music.

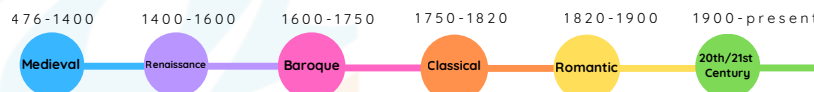
Teenage culture started to develop in the 1950s. Rock and roll was the first style of music to appeal to the new young audience. It was often disapproved of by the older generation and so represented a sense of youthful rebellion.

Rock and roll songs were made for dancing. They had fast tempos, simple time, syncopated rhythms, catchy melodies and often insightful lyrics with the addition of electric instruments.

Listening Pieces

- Blue Suede Shoes, Elvis Presley, 1956
- Suspicious Minds, Elvis Presley, 1969
- California Dreamin', The Mamas & the Papas, 1965
- Hit the Road Jack, Ray Charles, 1962
- Roll Over Beethoven, Chuck Berry, 1956
- Shout, Lulu, 1965
- La Bamba, Richie Valens, 1958
- Jumpin' Jack Flash, Rolling Stones, 1968

Musical Knowledge



note values

- 1 beat note
crotchet
- two 1/2 beat notes
paired quavers
- 1 beat rest
crotchet rest
- 2 beat note
minim
- 4 beat note
semibreve

treble clef

stave

C D E F G

Key Instruments

vocals

piano

guitar

bass guitar

drum kit

saxophone

trombone

double bass

harmonica

electric guitar

As rock and roll developed....

backing vocalists

Key Vocabulary

- backing vocals:** supports the lead vocals, often sings a harmony or echoes parts of the lead vocal.
- bass line:** lowest part of the music. Creates rhythm and harmony with the chords and adds to the texture of the music
- call and response:** two phrases, the first phrase being the call and the second phrase is a response to the first
- chord:** two or more notes played at the same time
- genre:** a style or category of music
- harmony:** the sound of two or more pitches performed together at the same time
- improvisation:** make up on the spot
- improvise:** creating music on the spot
- lead vocalist:** the member of the band who sings the main melody or tune and lyrics
- lead vocals:** sings the main melody and lyrics, usually sung by one person
- melody:** the tune of the music made up of high and low pitches
- pitch:** how high or low a sound is
- root note:** the first note in a chord
- walking bass line:** a bass line that moves through the different notes of the chord