

History of Rock & Roll

essential understanding

Students will develop a greater working knowledge of the history of rock music and its influence on popular culture.



ATBHS
SINCE 1987

overview

With an emphasis on looking at primary source documents, including documentaries, concert footage, interviews, and autobiography excerpts, students will learn about the history and progression of Rock & Roll from its beginnings in Jazz, Blues, Gospel, and Country through the present, also discovering its many offshoot genres including Punk, Grunge, Indie, and Heavy Metal. This class is open to anyone interested in music history, regardless of whether students currently play or want to play an instrument. However, students interested in developing their own musical skills on guitar, bass, drums, piano, or other instruments can participate in an optional rock music workshop.

Guiding Question 1: What are the origins of Rock & Roll?

lessons

- _____ Roots of the Genre
- _____ Musical Innovations (Rock Music of the 1940s/1950s)
- _____ Rock Music of the 1960s
- _____ Rock Music of the 1970s

group work

Due Date: February 19th

_____ **The Great Refusal** - In assigned groups students will research and present on a cultural phenomenon or rock music event from the 1960s. A list of suggested cultural phenomena and rock music events is suggested below. Your presentation must include either slides, a poster, or another visual format to organize your research. Presentations should be roughly 6-8 minutes in length and include either video footage OR a demonstration/performance to share with the class.

Suggested Topics:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Vietnam War | British Invasion |
| Civil Rights Movement | American Folk Music Revival |
| 2nd Wave Feminist Movement | Monterey Pop Festival |
| Cuban Missile Crisis | Woodstock |
| Space Race | LSD & Psychedelic Rock |

Due Date: March 11th

_____ **We Will Rock You** - In assigned groups students will research and present on one of the sub-genres to emerge from rock in the 1970s. A list of genres suggested below. Your presentation must include either slides, a poster, or another visual format to organize your research. Presentations should be roughly 6-8 minutes in length and include a visual piece OR a kinetic demonstration/performance to share with the class.

Suggested Genres:

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Hard Rock | Glam Rock |
| Southern Rock | Heavy Metal |
| New Wave | Progressive Rock |
| Punk Rock | Disco (The enemy of rock in the 1970s!) |

individual work

Due Date: Varies

_____ **Song of the Day** - During our first class meeting, students will sign up for a time slot to present on a song and artist from the 1950s to 1970s in the rock genre of their choosing. Students will share the song they chose with the class and provide a brief 3-4 minute oral presentation on the artist and why you chose this song, including information such as:

- Who are the band members?
- Where is the band from and how did the band start?
- What songs/albums is this band/artist most known for?
- What notable events are associated with this band/artist?
- Why did you choose this particular song? What stands out to you about it? (Melody, Lyrics, Feel, etc.)

****A visual component to accompany the presentation is encouraged but not required. Students will be assessed on preparedness and thoroughness of research.*

Due Date: January 29th

_____ **Musical Innovations** - Students will complete a handout detailing the various musical innovations including the popularization of electric instruments and the discovery of new sounds that led to the creation of the rock and roll genre in the 1940s/1950s.

assessment

Due Date: March 25th

_____ **Rock Music Composition** - Students will choose to complete one of the two options below:

Song Analysis - Students will pick one song from any of the rock & roll subgenres from the 1940s through the 1970s and write a four to five paragraph persuasive essay OR record a 10-12 minute presentation analyzing how they feel this song contributed to rock & roll history.

Original or Cover Song Performance - *(Students participating in the optional rock music workshop must choose this option)* Students either alone or in groups will either perform a cover song of any song from one of the rock & roll subgenres from the 1940s to 1970s that is no less than 3 ½ minutes in length or compose and perform an original rock & roll song (using at least some traditional instruments) that is no less than 3 ½ minutes in length.

Google Classroom

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