

Music Virtual Learning
Music Appreciation

May 14, 2020



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Lesson: May 14, 2020

Objective/Learning Target:

Students will learn about the origins of Hip-Hop.

Bellwork



- What do you know about hip-hop?
- Where did it start?
- Who was considered the most important figure in the early start of hip-hop?
- What kind of dancing was inspired through hip-hop?
- What was the first rap hit?



Let's Find out

Lesson

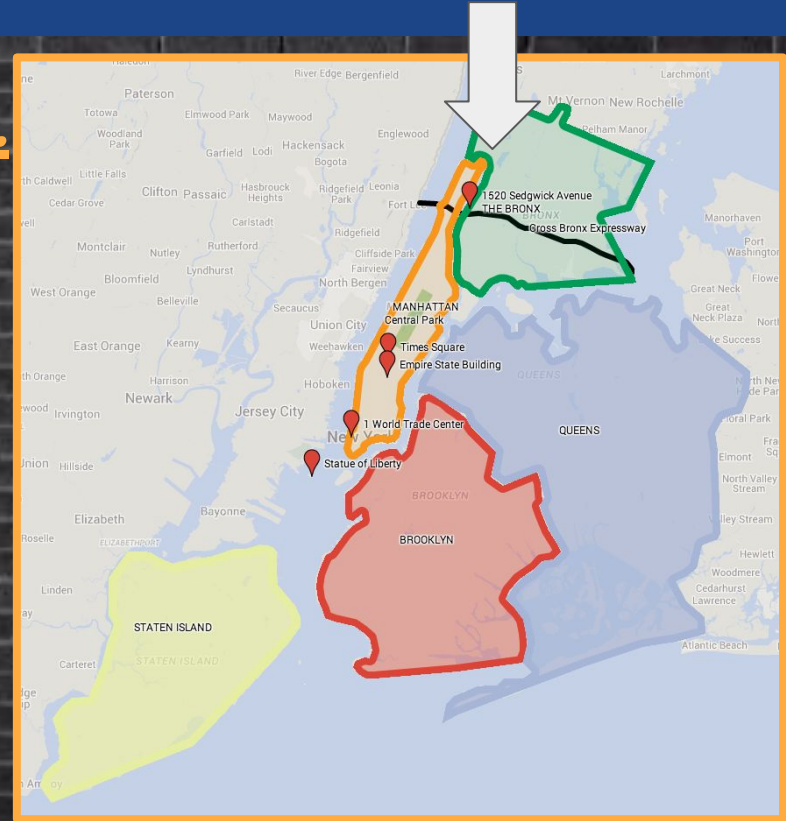


Origins of Hip-Hop

- ❑ Started in the inner cities of New York in 1970s.
- ❑ “**White Flight**” -when large white, middle-class populations would leave urban areas for suburbs in 1950s and 1960s-changed the demographics of communities such as the Bronx drastically.
- ❑ Amidst the higher crime and rising poverty rates that came with urban decay, young people in the South Bronx made use of limited resources to create cultural expressions that encompassed not only music, but also dance, visual art, and fashion.

Origins of Hip-Hop continued...

- ❑ The Bronx, one of New York City's five "boroughs," became populated mainly by Blacks and Hispanics, including large immigrant populations from Caribbean nations including Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, and others



“1520 Sedgwick Avenue” is the address of an apartment building in the Bronx where some of the earliest Hip Hop performances occurred, including several house parties emceed by DJ Kool Herc, a resident of the building.



The Cross Bronx Expressway

- ❑ Constructed between 1948 and 1972
- ❑ One of the first highways to be built directly through a crowded urban environment.
- ❑ While technologically innovative, its construction deeply affected the communities through which it passed by dividing neighborhoods, lowering property values, and hastening the rate of urban decay in many sections of the Bronx.



DJ Kool Herc

- ❑ Founding father of Hip Hop
- ❑ 1971-First Hip Hop event was hosted by him at 1520 Sedgwick Avenue
- ❑ DJ Kool Herc's signature innovation came from observing how the crowds would react to different parts of whatever record he happened to be playing: "I was noticing people used to wait for particular parts of the record to dance, maybe [to] do their specialty move."
- ❑ Used two turntables to transition between two tracks



AFRIKA BAMBATAA

- ❑ Born 1957
- ❑ Involved in gang culture in the Bronx area of New York.
- ❑ Child of an activist mother and well aware of the Black Power movement following the civil rights era.
- ❑ After a trip to Africa and seeing their emerging Hip Hop scene, Bambaataa formed the Universal Zulu Nation which impacted his world view.



“Shifting his world view in a dramatic fashion, Bambaataa espoused the idea that Hip Hop — a term he is said to have created — could draw young people away from gang life and into a peaceful, art-rich lifestyle that could help to reorient the torn communities of the inner city.” -Teach Rock Website

Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five

- ❑ Emerging in New York in the late 1970s, Grandmaster Flash is credited as one of the foremost innovators of Hip Hop DJing as an art form.
- ❑ By backspinning, scratching, mixing and otherwise manipulating vinyl records in search of the “perfect beat,” Flash helped pioneer using the turntable as a musical instrument to create breakbeats, the backbone of any Hip Hop song.



Along with the group the Furious Five, Flash came to national prominence in 1982 with the seminal Rap hit “The Message” – a track that with its chilling social commentary changed Hip Hop forever, retooling its image as good-time “party music” and helping usher in the age of the hardcore MC.

Listen to
“The Message”



Reflection Questions:

- ❑ Why do you think Hip Hop became so popular with the people in urban communities such as the Bronx?
- ❑ How did “The Message” reflect the social and economic conditions of the Bronx in the 1970s? Think about both the equipment that was needed to produce it and the themes reflected in its lyrics.

Review



Watch the following video about Grandmaster
Flash:



After watching the video, answer these questions:

- ❑ Where was early Hip Hop performed? Who was in the audience?
- ❑ What equipment did Grandmaster Flash use to build a new musical sound? How did he utilize this equipment in an innovative way?
- ❑ What are “the breaks” to which Grandmaster Flash is referring? What is “scratching”? What about the way Hip Hop DJs played this music made it original?
- ❑ How does Grandmaster Flash describe the role of the Master of Ceremonies, or MC at a Hip Hop performance?



Additional Resources



Afrika Bambaataa

Grandmaster Flash

Timeline of 1970's

Historical Roots of Hip-Hop