

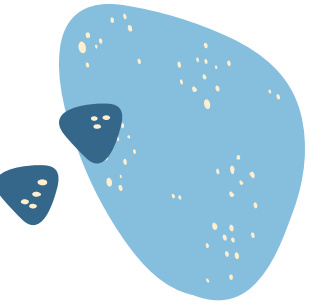


# PERFORMANCE PLAYGROUND

## Rhythm And Poetry

Let's Learn About Rap  
and Hip Hop Culture

# What to expect



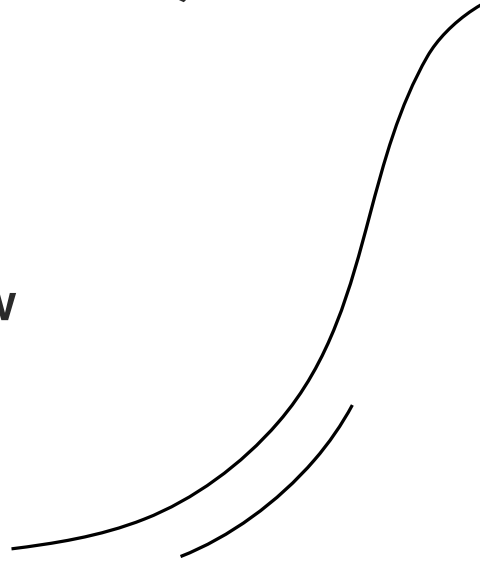
**What is Hip Hop?**

**Hip Hop's Origin Story**

**How Did Hip Hop Became Popular?**

**People to Know**


**How to Rap!**





# WHAT IS HIP HOP?

Hip hop is a cultural movement that includes **music**, **art**, **dance**, and **fashion**. It began as a musical genre and its influence expanded to many areas of artistic expression for Black and Brown people.



# HIP HOP'S ORIGIN STORY

Hip Hop started in the late 1970s in the **Bronx** borough of **New York City**.

The Black and Brown people who lived there grew tired of gang violence, drugs, and police brutality. To make money and to celebrate their communities, people began throwing parties. A key element to a great party is **music**.



# HIP HOP'S ORIGIN STORY - Music

Hip Hop music began with the DJ playing records for the parties.

The DJs talents for setting the mood, mixing tracks, and finding beats made them the main event.

To this day, DJs draw huge crowds for their talents.



# HIP HOP'S ORIGIN STORY - Music

An emcee (or M.C.) joined to add excitement and hype up the DJ. While the emcee talked to the crowd, the DJ played music, usually just a beat.

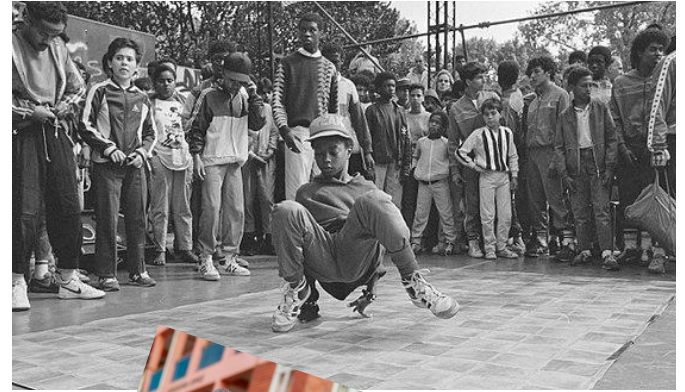
The emcee's talking over the beat turned into rap: **Rhythm And Poetry.**



# HIP HOP'S ORIGIN STORY - Breakdancing

A distinctive type of dance began during the DJ's drum break, or **breakbeat**, where the music or beat looped with no singing or rapping over it.

DJs would make a longer break so that more breakdancing, or **breaking**, could happen. The dancing was energetic and athletic.



# HIP HOP'S ORIGIN STORY - Graffiti

A visual art element of Hip Hop is **graffiti**. Graffiti was, and is, very political, since artists almost exclusively made their art using spray paint on public property.

They would paint their name (or a tag), a message, or an image/mural.





# HIP HOP'S ORIGIN STORY - Graffiti

This style became iconically connected with Hip Hop, and many artists became involved as breakdancers and DJs.



# HOW HIP HOP BECAME POPULAR

Hip Hop quickly spread across the nation. Hip Hop and Rap were on the radio and TV. Plus, people could buy records to play at home.

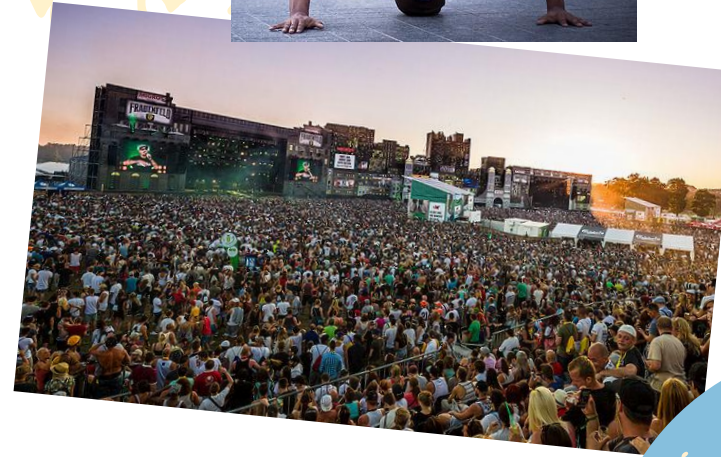
Early influential hits included “Rapper’s Delight” by **Sugar Hill Gang** and “The Message” from **Grandmaster Flash and The Furious Five**.



# HOW HIP HOP BECAME POPULAR

Rap has always been both equal parts **partying** (“Rapper’s Delight”) and meaningful **social commentary** (“The Message”). This is found in rap today!

From parties and records to arenas and streaming platforms, this art form that came from impoverished Black and Brown artists is now a **billion-dollar industry** that spans the globe!



# ARTISTS TO KNOW - DJ Kool Herc

Jamaican-born DJ Kool Herc is credited as being the “father” of Hip Hop.

In 1973, he was the DJ at his sister's back-to-school party. He extended the beat of a record by using two record players, isolating the percussion "breaks" by using a mixer to switch between the two records. Thus, the DJ style of Hip Hop was born.



# ARTISTS TO KNOW - Grandmaster Flash

Grandmaster Flash was and is an influential DJ. He expanded the possibilities of Hip Hop by organizing a group. This became the Furious Five.

They were the first popular Rap group within New York City, and they broke into the mainstream with the hit “The Message.”



# HIP HOP ARTISTS TO EXPLORE



**Outkast**



**The Black Opera**



**Kendrick Lamar**

# HIP HOP ARTISTS TO EXPLORE



**Rapsody**



**Polo G**



**Saba**



**Roddy Rich**

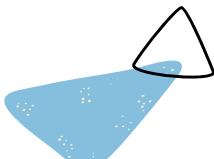



# HOW TO RAP!

How can you begin to create your own rap songs?

The best place to start is with counting and rhyming.

Most rap verses are typically 16 bars.  
So what is a bar?







## HOW TO RAP!

One bar consists of a count to four. If you nod your head or tap your toe four times, that's one bar.

You can use only a few words or you can fill a bar with as many words and syllables as you can.

Rhythm and counting is as important as the words.



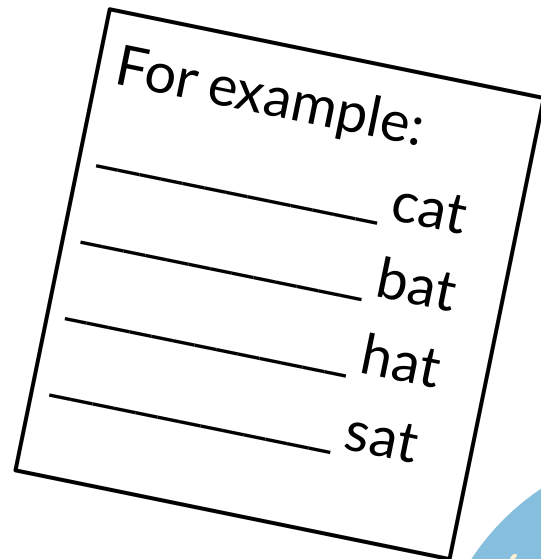
# HOW TO RAP!

Remember rap is **R**hythm **A**nd **P**oetry.

For the words, think of as many words that rhyme as possible.

Place each of them at the end of a line.

Then fill in everything leading up to the rhyming word.



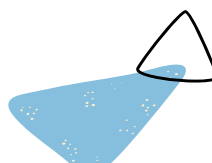



## HOW TO RAP!

You can also write down your thoughts, feelings and emotions.

Like most rap, you are writing a story that is transformed by rhyme.


Once you've completed the worksheets, practice your raps with the beats on the website.






Learn more and  
hear additional rap  
performances from  
Jamall Bufford  
by visiting  
[theblackopera.com](https://theblackopera.com)





Take what you've  
learned today and  
explore more about  
**Rap and Hip Hop.**



Slides written and organized by **Will Biby**  
in collaboration with **Jamall Bufford**.

