

Course Content - Evolution of Rock n' Roll

The History of Rock 'n' Roll in the 1970s and 1980s

- In the 1970's, you could still watch American Bandstand, but then there were shows like Soul Train, Hee Haw, Don Kirshner's Rock Concert, Captain and Tennille Show, The Osmond's Family Hour and the Sonny and Cher show
- Radios were now a standard feature in most cars
- By the mid 1970's you could get an 8 Track cassette player cassette player in your car
- 8 Track Cassettes were much smaller than albums and the tape was inside a little box
- In the late 1970s early 80's standard cassettes became popular
- By the early 1980's music took another giant leap forward and started selling music on CD's! Also known as 'compact discs'
- The Sony Company was making really cool portable devices called Walkmans
- In 1981, MTV was born. 24 hours-a-day, seven days-a-week, music videos were on TV

Instruments of Rock 'n' Roll in the 1970s and 1980s

- **Drums:** In the end of the 70's, disco and many other styles of rock were starting to use drum machines in performances and recordings. Drum machines could play rhythms and beats that were impossible for a single drummer to play
- **Electric Guitar:** 6 strings turned into 12 strings, and single necks turned into flashy double necks. Regular shapes turned into flying V design. New technologies in amplifiers were giving guitar players more and more ways to create big sounds
- **Vocals:** Vocals were really changing. Many rock groups were grooving on harmonies. Three, four, and even more voices all singing together, were being heard in all kinds of rock music
- **Keyboard:** With help from an electronic wizard named R.A. Moog, Pianos and Organs gave birth to the amazing synthesizer. The synthesizer looked just like a keyboard, but sounded like something from outer space

Music in Life Lesson:

The Music in Life lesson is a moment to engage in active listening. The Music in Life lesson song for this course is "Man in the Mirror" by Michael Jackson. Students are invited to think about how the music makes them feel, think and move. Music is an individual experience; active listening encourages students to choose their own musical path.

Rock Styles of the 1970'S and 80'S: Soft Rock, Pop Rock, Heartland Rock, Southern Rock, Hard Rock, Glam, Disco, Progressive Rock, Punk, and New Wave

Highlighted Rock 'n' Roll Musicians of the 1970s: Fleetwood Mac, The Eagles, Bruce Springsteen, Yes, Santana, Sir Elton John, Joan Jett, Queen and Led Zeppelin

Highlighted Rock 'n' Roll Musicians of the 1980s: ABBA, Donna Summer, Tina Turner, Heart, AC/DC, The Clash, The Cars, Madonna, and Michael Jackson.