

Course Content - Introduction to Pop Music

About Pop Music

- Pop is a musical genre that grew out of the Rock 'n' Roll of the 1950s and 60s.
- It was a softer, mellower version of Rock 'n' Roll.
- Pop music generally follows a “Formula”. It has a steady rhythm or beat, a catchy melody, lyric pattern (Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Verse), and it tells a simple story.
- Pop music can be heard everywhere – the mall, in a car, on tv shows, on the internet.
- Pop music also often uses the most current technology to have new and interesting sounds.
- A 'hook' is the catchy part of a song that sticks in your head. Most pop songs have a strong, fun hook.

Styles of Pop Music

- Pop music is influenced by many styles of music. In fact, almost *all* styles of music find their way into pop music songs.
- Because of all these influences, Pop music has many different types of styles: Disco pop, Alternative pop, Soft pop, Latin pop, R&B pop, Soul pop, Progressive pop, New Wave pop, Funk pop, and many more.
- Bubblegum pop is a type of pop music that began in the 1950s. It has a fun, dancing beat that is specifically meant to appeal to young people.

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 "River of Dreams" by Billy Joel. 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.

Pop Artists of the 1950s to 2000s

- The biggest pop hit of the 1960s was “*The Twist*”, by Chubby Checker.
- Madonna is a pop artist who had 17 hits in row!
- “*Smooth*” is a song by Carlos Santana and Rob Thomas that mixes rock and Latin music into a great pop song.
- The Supremes’ hit, “Stop! In the Name of Love” was a pop song.
- The “King of Rock”, Elvis Presley, had many pop hits.
- The self-proclaimed “King of Pop” is Michael Jackson. He had 13 Number One hits in his career.

Pop Artists 2000s to Present

- Beyoncé’s hit, Irreplaceable, was originally a country music song. She remade it into a pop hit.
- The World Record for most Twitter followers goes to pop princess, Katy Perry.
- Pop star Rihanna comes from the island country of Barbados, the island culture influences her music.
- Taylor Swift began her career as a country artist, she later moved to Pop Music.
- Pop singer Pharrell Williams is also a Songwriter, Producer, Film Composer, and “The Voice” judge.
- The Pop song, “*Can’t Stop the Feeling*” by Justin Timberlake is from the movie *Trolls*. Many pop songs come from movies.