

“Keeping It Real”

Hip hop music (or rap music) is a style of popular music and a cultural movement that was started by inner-city youth, mostly African Americans in New York City, in the early 1970s, but became a large part of modern day pop culture in the late '80s. It consists of two main components: rapping (MC-ing) and DJ-ing (audio mixing and scratching). Along with break dancing and graffiti (tagging), these compose the four elements of hip hop. In 2006, rap music was the second-most popular form of music in the United States after classical music.

Hip hop began in The Bronx, located in New York City, when DJs began isolating the percussion break from funk and disco songs. The early role of the MC was to introduce the DJ and the music and to keep the audience excited. MCs began by speaking between songs, giving exhortations to dance, greetings to audience members, jokes and anecdotes. Eventually this practice became more stylized and became known as rapping. By 1979 hip hop had become a commercially popular music genre and began to enter the American mainstream. By the beginning of the 2000s, hip hop was a staple of popular music charts and was being performed in many styles across the world. The expansion of hip-hop was due in large part to radios, tapes, CD's, world-wide cable TV access, and the Internet.

Adapted from <http://en.wikipedia.org>

Early 1970's Hip-hop
New York City



www.jahsonic.com/Disco.html

Italian Rappers



www.theallined.com/news/

Chinese Youth in 2006



<http://groups.myspace.com>

1. Where and when did hip-hop originate? _____

2. On the map, label the three countries represented in the photos.

3. According to the reading passage, what allowed the hip-hop culture to spread to other countries? _____

4. Do you think technology plays an important role in helping spread new ideas and ways of thinking?

How? _____



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