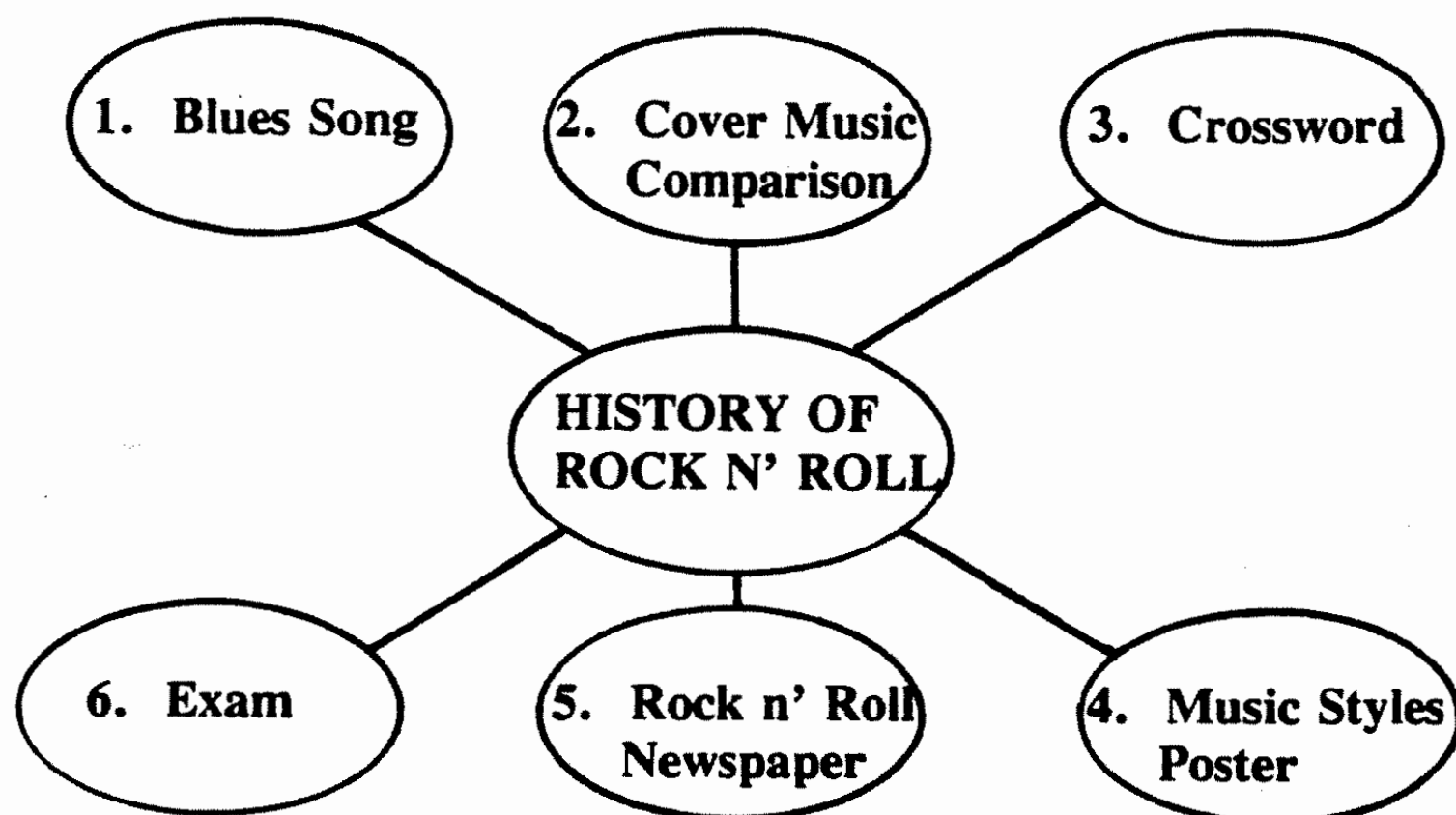


HISTORY OF ROCK N' ROLL

UNIT OVERVIEW

In this unit, students trace the development of Rock n' Roll, from African Tribal music through to the modern music styles of today. Due to the academic nature of the material, this unit can be taught with a great deal of structure, much like a social studies history unit. This makes it an excellent way to begin the year.

STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS



1. **Blues Song** - Students write words for their own blues song, trying to capture a sad, low-down feeling.
2. **Cover Music Comparison** - Students, in pairs are to select an original song and its crossover version and present these songs to the class.
3. **Music Styles Crossword Puzzle** - Students develop an understanding of the different styles of Rock Music.
4. **Music Styles Poster** - In a group of two or three students, choose a particular music style and make a poster or banner that: (1) has visual appeal and (2) reflects a style of music.
5. **Rock n' Roll Newspaper** - Individually, students write and illustrate a newspaper that covers both sides of a 24" by 36" piece of paper (Articles should use Rock n' Roll personalities whenever possible). Things to include may be - editorials, comics, horoscopes, sports and gossip. Creativity and humour should be encouraged.
6. **Exam** - Sample exam is provided.

TEACHING STRATEGIES

This unit uses overheads to cover the academic content in the unit.

The assignments provide hands on activities that help make the notes more interesting. By alternating the assignments with the notes, the teacher is able to keep students motivated and interested.

INTRODUCTORY LESSON - AFRICAN INFLUENCE

Student Objectives

- Students understand the importance and influences of African Tribal music on modern Rock n' Roll.

Student Activities

- Students prepare a concept map and take notes.

Suggested Teaching Strategies

- Outline objectives of the unit as well as marking format.
- Since this is an introductory lesson, get the students to brainstorm a concept map on the topic Rock n' Roll or History of Rock n' Roll.
- This may be done by teacher at board or by students in small groups on 24 x 36" paper.
- Use overhead to present notes on Early African Influences.

ASSIGNMENT #1 - BLUES SONG

Student Objectives

- Students use creative thought and critical thinking to create a Blues song

Student Activities

- Students listen to a blues song to become aware of mood.
- Students use the example given to model their own Blues song

Suggested Teaching Strategies

- Play an authentic blues song and question the students on the mood of the song and the instruments used.
- The library or the internet are good places to look for collections of Blues songs.
- The movie "Crossroads contains many examples of Blues songs and the teacher may wish to show this movie or segments of it to the class.
- Use overhead to present notes on blues music
- Have the class help write a blues vers using Twelve Bar Blues patten on the board.
- Students then compose their own song.



*** Note ***

Be sure to preview the movie at home first to ensure that it is suitable for you class.

ASSIGNMENT #4 - COVER SONG

Student Objectives

- Students compare and contrast an original song with its cover version.

Suggested Teaching Strategies

- Let students listen to an example of a song that has been covered. e.g. "Don't Be Cruel" by Elvis and Cheap Trick. After listening to the cover version, students will list three similarities as well as three differences in the song. (Student task sheet provided)
- Students will then choose which version they like the most and give at least one concrete reason for their answer.
- In pairs, students will then find their own examples of a cover song and its original and present the songs to the class.
- Some possible suggestions include: Don't Be Cruel - Elvis / Cheap Trick, Can't Help Falling In Love - Elvis / UB 40, Signs Signs - Bob Dylan / Guns and Roses, Jailhouse Rock - Elvis / Motley Crue, Mony Mony - Tommy James and the Shondells / Billy Idol, When a Man Loves a Woman - Percy Sledge / Michael Boulton, Locomotion - Little Eva / Kylie Minogue, La Bamba - Ritchie Valens / Los Lobos, Cats in the Cradle - Harry Chapin / Ugly Kid Joe
- Students should complete the task sheet for each pair of songs as they are presented in front of the class.

ASSIGNMENT #5 - ROCK N' ROLL NEWSPAPER (Major Project)

Student Activities

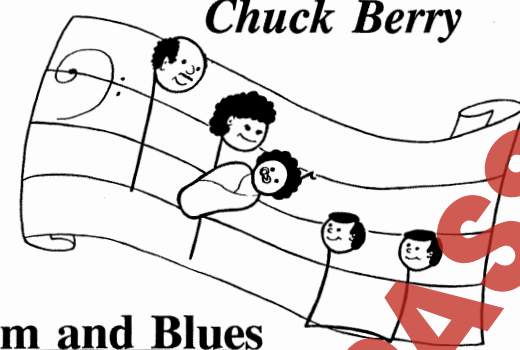
- Individually, students write and illustrate their own newspaper that covers both sides of a 24" by 36" piece of paper. Articles should use Rock n' Roll personalities (past and present) wherever possible.

Suggested Teaching Strategies

- One suggested method of beginning the lesson is to ask the students about "The Day the Music Died..." and play "American Pie" by Don MacLean. Discuss the famous plane crash that killed Ritchie Valens, The Big Bopper and Buddy Holly as inspiration for the song and as a possible newspaper Headline.
- "Elvis is Alive" headlines also make for interesting stories.
- Both sides of the paper should be entirely covered. (Unless you don't have time)

THE FIFTIES BIRTH OF ROCK N' ROLL

*"The Blues had a baby and they
called it Rock n' Roll"*
Chuck Berry



Rhythm and Blues

The fifties began with Rhythm and Blues which was music played by, and listened to by African Americans. Rhythm and Blues used the twelve bar blues chord progression but had an electric sound. It was also fast, cheerful and easy to dance to which made it different from the slow, sad blues. Fats Domino and Chuck Berry made Rhythm and Blues records but they were listened to mainly by African Americans. These records did not receive wide air-play until Buddy Holly and the Crickets started to make inroads into white listening audiences.

