

Reggae Music

Knowledge Map. Year 8

Key vocabulary / concepts	What knowledge is required:
Reggae Music	Is an original music form from Caribbean Islands especially Jamaica. This style of music is derived from a fusion of African beats and Rhythm and Blues from the USA. The fast style of Rhythm and Blues was originally called 'Ska'; it developed into a slower style called 'Rocksteady' and eventually into Reggae in the late 1960s early 70s.
Ska	Ska was fast and exciting, based on the 12-bar blues chord structure. And often had witty lyrics. The famous Godfather of Ska was music legend LAUREL AITKEN is who settled in Leicester! Laurel emigrated from the Caribbean who lived here for many years (he has a famous person blue plaque outside his house in St Matthews estate)
Reggae	Reggae was like Ska but much slower and chilled out. Made famous by BOB MARLEY and others some of whom followed the Rastafarian religion. There have been many off-shoots of Reggae like 'Dub' Reggae, Dancehall and Lovers Rock
Structure	Using off-beat rhythms, It has a special emphasis on playing the 'OFF BEAT' this is called the 'Skank' beat So, if you count 1 2 3 4 in a bar you should say 1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and The skank beat is played on the ands It can be written (notated) in music like this:  one (and) two (and) three (and) four (and) Reggae often has lyrics that are about peace, harmony, the experience of Black people in the world and other social issues.
Reggae instruments	Heavy electric Bass guitar is very prominent. along with strong special drumbeats. The electric guitar or keyboard is often found playing the 'skank' beat and there are often brass trumpets trombones etc backing accompaniment Backing vocal harmonies are common.
Bob Marley	Famous Reggae songs are <i>Three little birds, War and One Love</i> by Bob Marley. They all have catchy melodic 'riffs' and singalong choruses.
Influence	Reggae influenced many other styles of music up to the present-day including UK Jungle, Drum and Bass, Grime and other artists like Stormzy have a strong link to the influence of Reggae.