

Name _____

Year 8: Intro to Rap

Watch the video clip, read the passage ``RAP HISTORY'' and use your own knowledge to fill in the gaps in the bottom section.

VIDEO: Listen very carefully to Young MC – how does he organise his rap?

Rap History

Rap music began among the youth of South Bronx, New York in the *mid 1970's*. Individuals such as *Kool Herc and Grandmaster Flash* were some of the early pioneers of this art form. The 1980's saw the continued success of rap music with many artists such as Run DMC (who had the first rap album to go gold in 1984), L.L. Cool J, Fat Boys, and west coast rapper Ice-T becoming popular.

Today rap music continues to be an important aspect of African- American culture. Rap music was a way for youths in black inner city neighbourhoods to express what they were feeling, and it became a form of entertainment. Hanging out with friends and rapping or listening to others rap kept black youths out of trouble in the dangerous neighbourhoods in which they lived. The dominant culture did not have a type of music that filled the needs of these youth, so they created their own.

Rap is now seen as a subculture that includes a large number of middle to upper white class youths because they share a common love for a type of music that combines *catchy beats with rhythmic music and thoughtful lyrics*. Rap lyrics are about the problems rappers have seen, such as poverty, crime, violence, racism, poor living conditions, drugs, alcoholism and corruption.

Rap comes from _____. It started in _____
with artists such as _____. As a musical art form, the 3
elements of rap are 1) catchy beats,

2) _____ and 3) _____. Rap continues to be extremely popular in modern culture, with artists such as _____ dominating the music industry. Rap is usually written with a verse and chorus structure, and the lyrics traditionally _____. When people make up lyrics on the spot, this is called _____, and they are improvising.

HW.

Write a rap to introduce yourself. For example,

My name's Ms. Dawson
My friends think I'm awesome
But when I'm in school
I'm not very cool

Don't forget:

- Rhyming is very important in rap!
- Practise with a beat!
- Keep the lyrics suitable for performance in class!

Next week you will get in groups to practice together. GOOD LUCK ;-)