



What you will learn about?

You will learn about the **cultural** and **musical** features of **Hip hop** as a style within the genre of Popular Music. You will learn the origins of Hip Hop, perform 2 hip hop songs and create your own hip hop track using a DAW

Elements of Music

- **Beats** – The steady pulse heard throughout any piece of music
- **Rhythm** – A collect of different note lengths put together to create a pattern
- **Pitch** – High/Mid range/Low notes
- **Dynamics** – Volume, loud, quiet, gradual increases/decreases
- **Tempo** – Speed, fast slow, gradual increases and decreases of tempo
- **Tonality** – Major chords CEG (uplifting/happy) and Minor chords EGB (sad/gloomy)
- **Harmony** – where chords and multiple pitches are played/sung together AT THE SAME TIME
- **Instrumentation** – the instruments used in a song

Famous Hip-Hop Artists

Lin-Manuel Miranda (Hamilton/Moana)
Sugar Hill Gang
Grand Master Flash
Eminem
Lauren Hill
Dr Dre
Tupac
Stormzy

Key words and Vocabulary

Cultural Features of Hip Hop

- **Pop Music** - A genre of Music since the 1960s characterised by vocals, rock instruments and technology. Short for 'Popular'
- **Hip-Hop** – a style of Popular Music originally from the African American culture in New York
- **DAW** – Digital Audio Workstation (E.g. Bandlab)
- **Sound Systems** – A set of electronic devices for playing recorded music
- **Ghetto Blasters/Boomboxes** - Large audio devices which could play tapes. Often had 2 speakers, carried on shoulders or put on street corners. Made popular in African American areas (Ghettos) where young people would 'blast' the music out to break dance to. Became a popular culture in poorer areas
- **MC** – Master of Ceremonies, a person on a stage in a hip hop event, rapping and rhyming into a mic over a backing track to keep the crowd entertained
- **DJ** – the person controlling the turntables
- **Graffiti** – Colourful and stylistic artwork and writing, created using paint spray cans. Often found on walls, bridges etc. Also known as street art
- **B-Boying/B-Girling** – Breakdancing. A style of dance made popular within Hip Hop Music
- **Beatboxing** – Improvised vocal beats and sound effects

Musical Features of Hip Hop

- **Rap** – A combination of talking and rhythmical chanting over a backing track
- **Rhythms** – strong repetitive beats
- **Sampling** – Hip Hop artists take samples (sections) of other songs and use them in their own music
- **Instrumentation** – mostly rap on vocals, music is created using technology and electronic sounds
- **Rhyme** – Rappers use improvised rhyming in their lyrics
- **Assonance** – Where two or more rhyming vowels are used on the same line of lyrics
- **Lyrics** – social and political issues eg, racism, poverty, police brutality

