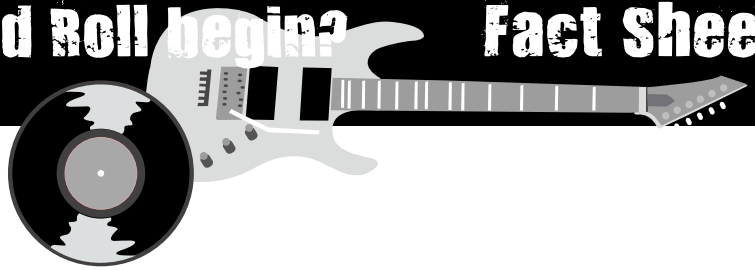


# 1 How did Rock and Roll begin? Fact Sheet



Just imagine what life would be like without any Rock and Roll or Pop music. What would we play on our ipods, car radios and other devices, or watch on videos? What would we sing along with or dance to when we are hyped, excited or inspired? It's so hard to imagine life without Rock and Roll these days, because it's everywhere.

Did you know that Rock and Roll music didn't even exist until the 1950s? Much of the music that existed before that was **Classical**, **Folk**, **Jazz**, **Blues** or **Big Band** with singers like Frank Sinatra! People would do ball room or couples dancing, but they didn't sing or dance quite like we do now.

In 1954, a band called Billy Haley and the Comets launched a smash hit called *Rock Around The Clock*. This is often referred to as the beginning of Rock and Roll. Haley's song rose to number 1 in 1955 when it was included as a soundtrack of *Blackboard Jungle*, a movie about juvenile delinquents, with Bill Haley portraying a young rebel. The teenagers watching the movie couldn't help but get up in the aisles and dance as soon as they heard the music.

*Rock Around The Clock* was a new type of music which appealed especially to white American teenage kids who could dance, clap and sing along, while having fun watching the band perform crazy antics like performing acrobatics on the **saxophone** and riding the **double bass** as a pony.

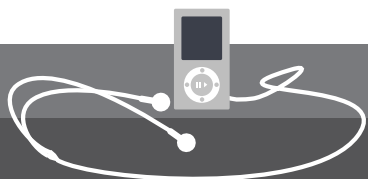
By 1956, Bill Haley had become one of the most popular rock and roll performers in the world. Within two years he had 12 top 40 records which included songs such as *Shake Rattle and Roll*, *See You Later Alligator* and *Razzle Dazzle*. In 1956 he also starred in two of the earliest full length Rock and Roll movies called *Rock Around The Clock* and *Don't Knock the Rock*. By 1957, other crazier and wilder acts such as Elvis Presley and Little Richard (who sang *Tutti Frutti*) started to dominate the American scene, so Bill Haley's band looked for fame in other parts of the world, becoming the first Rock and Roll group to tour the world.

In America at this time, it was still uncommon for white families to even speak to their black neighbours. While Bill Haley was introducing the white American teenage population to this new Rock and Roll craze, artists such as Chuck Berry were introducing it to the black American population. This early style of Rock and Roll music is sometimes referred to as "**Rockabilly**" because these pioneers of rock combined **Blues** and **Country** music. Many of the themes and **lyrics** were about girls and cars.

Chuck Berry is best known for his witty lyrics, his trademark sound of the **double string guitar lick** and his unique "**Duck Walk**." His best known songs were written and recorded in the mid to late 50s, with his first number 1 smash hit, *Maybelline* in 1955. By 1958, Berry had a string of hits which included *Johnny B Goode* and *Rock and Roll Music*. He also appeared in feature films such as *Go Johnny Go*.

Today, Chuck Berry's music is still a source of inspiration for many rock bands worldwide and over the years, hundreds of films, artists and songwriters have used his songs and lyrics as inspiration for their own work.

## Fast Facts



**Time Span:** 1950s

**Influences:** Blues, Country

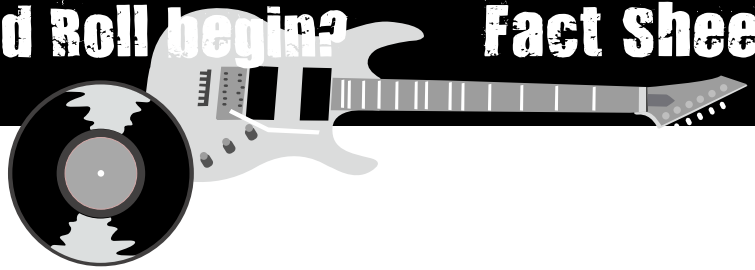
**Primary Instruments:** Guitars, piano, drums, double bass, sometimes saxophone

**Major Artists:** Bill Haley, Chuck Berry

## Fun Fact

Chuck Berry originally wanted to be a professional photographer. The main reason he started singing and playing in bands was to earn money to buy photographic equipment. He was also a janitor and a hairdresser at different times before becoming a professional musician.

# 1 How did Rock and Roll begin? Fact Sheet



Just imagine what life would be like without any Rock and Roll or Pop music. What would we play on our ipods, car radios and other devices, or watch on videos? What would we sing along with or dance to when we are hyped, excited or inspired? It's so hard to imagine life without Rock and Roll these days, because it's everywhere.

Did you know that Rock and Roll music didn't even exist until the \_\_\_\_\_s? Much of the music that existed before that was Classical, Folk, Jazz, Blues or Big Band with singers like Frank Sinatra! People would do ball room or couples dancing, but they didn't sing or dance quite like we do now.

In 1954, a band called \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ launched a smash hit called R\_\_\_\_\_ A\_\_\_\_\_. The C\_\_\_\_\_. This is often referred to as the beginning of Rock and Roll. Their song rose to number 1 in 1955 when it was included as a soundtrack of Blackboard Jungle, a movie about juvenile delinquents, with the lead singer portraying a young rebel. The teenagers watching the movie couldn't help but get up in the aisles and dance as soon as they heard the music.

This was a new type of music which appealed especially to white American teenage kids who could dance, clap and sing along, while having fun watching the band perform crazy antics like performing acrobatics on the saxophone and riding the double bass as a pony.

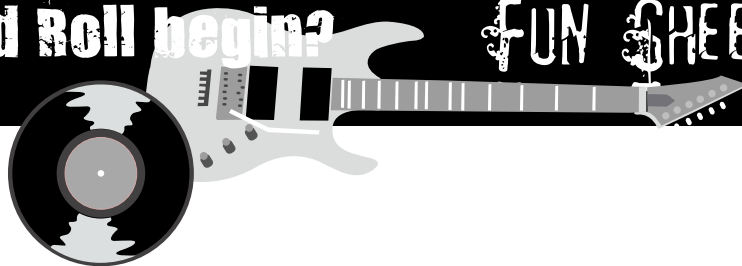
By 1956, Bill Haley had become one of the most popular rock and roll performers in the world. Within two years he had 12 top 40 records which included songs such as S\_\_\_\_\_ R\_\_\_\_\_ and R\_\_\_\_\_, S\_\_\_\_ Y\_\_\_\_ L\_\_\_\_\_ A\_\_\_\_\_ and R\_\_\_\_\_ D\_\_\_\_\_. In 1956 he also starred in two of the earliest full length Rock and Roll movies called Rock Around The Clock and Don't Knock the Rock. By 1957, other crazier and wilder acts such as E\_\_\_\_\_ P\_\_\_\_\_ and L\_\_\_\_\_ R\_\_\_\_\_ (who sang Tutti Frutti) started to dominate the American scene, so Bill Haley's band looked for fame in other parts of the world, becoming the first Rock and Roll group to tour the world.

While Bill Haley was introducing the white American teenage population to this new Rock and Roll craze, artists such as C\_\_\_\_\_ B\_\_\_\_\_ were introducing it to the black American population. This early style of Rock and Roll music is sometimes referred to as "Rockabilly" because these pioneers of rock combined Blues and Country music. Many of the themes and lyrics were about girls and cars.

C\_\_\_\_\_ B\_\_\_\_\_ is best known for his witty lyrics, his trademark sound of the double string guitar lick and his unique "Duck Walk." His best known songs were written and recorded in the mid to late 50s, with his first number 1 smash hit, Maybelline in 1955. By 1958, Berry had a string of hits which included J\_\_\_\_\_ and R\_\_\_\_\_ and R\_\_\_\_\_ M\_\_\_\_\_. He also appeared in feature films such as Go Johnny Go.

Today, Chuck Berry's music is still a source of inspiration for many rock bands worldwide and over the years, hundreds of films, artists and songwriters have used his songs and lyrics as inspiration for their own work.

# 1 How did Rock and Roll begin? FUN SHEET



1 At the age of 18, Chuck Berry spent the first of his two stints in jail for which crime? Fill in the blanks below and the answer will be revealed in the shaded squares

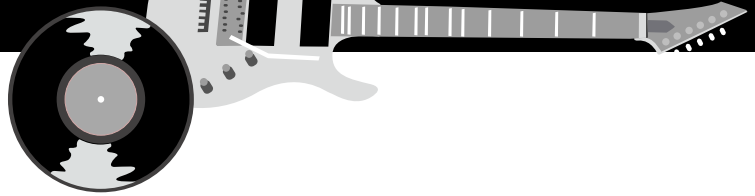
- 1 Bill Haley's band was named Bill Haley and the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 2 Chuck Berry's first #1 smash hit was called \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3 The words of songs are referred to as the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 4 One of the styles of music that preceded Rock and Roll \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 5 Chuck Berry was known for an unusual way of moving called the ...  
\_\_\_\_\_.
  - 6 Bill Haley's first smash hit was called *Rock Around the ...* \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 7 The early style of Rock and Roll music is sometimes called this  
\_\_\_\_\_.
  - 8 Common themes of early Rock music included cars and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 9 Rockabilly was influenced by the music of Blues and ... \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 10 A film which Chuck Berry appeared in \_\_\_\_\_.
- Chuck Berry was jailed at 18 for \_\_\_\_\_.

2 What is the title often given to Bill Haley?

The answer is in the text message below. The numbers are given - you need to work out which letters were used.

8 4 3 3 2 8 4 3 7 6 3  
7 6 2 5 2 6 3 7 6 5 5

FUN MUSIC COMPANY		
1	2 abc	3 def
4 ghi	5 jkl	6 mno
7 pqrs	8 tuv	9 wxyz
*	0	#



## Lesson Ideas

- Work in groups to role-play people explaining what rock and roll music is to someone who is deaf. For added interest, someone could even act as the interpreter, signing or pretending to sign the responses.
- Imagine you are the parent of a child from the 1950's. Write a letter to the editor of the local newspaper expressing your disapproval of this "new" style of music. Include reasons for your concerns. This activity could also be done as a role play of a discussion between a child and a parent who is protesting about their child's new interest in rock and roll music. For an interesting insight into the factors behind this topic, go to: <http://www.history-of-rock.com/indx.html> and click on the link to "Teenagers and the 50s">
- Design a Facebook profile for either Chuck Berry or Bill Haley. Include personal information such as birth date, relationship status etc, a friends list and some fictional groups that they may have belonged to.

## Listening Activity

Watch some videos of Chuck Berry doing his trademark "Duck Walk". Hold a competition to see who can do the best one

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T3rG73VOqyo>

## Suggested Listening List

*Rock around the Clock* - Bill Haley  
*Shake Rattle and Roll* - Bill Haley  
*See You Later Alligator* - Bill Haley  
*Razzle Dazzle* - Bill Haley  
*Maybelline* - Chuck Berry  
*Johnny B. Goode* - Chuck Berry  
*Rock and Roll Music* - Chuck Berry  
*Roll Over Beethoven* - Chuck Berry

## Internet Links

<http://www.history-of-rock.com/indx.html> A great source of information on influences, events and people during the early years of rock and roll

<http://www.chuckberry.com/> The official Chuck Berry website

<http://www.billhaley.co.uk/> The official Bill Haley website

## YouTube Links

You can use your own recordings or view videos and get audio links to these pieces from:

[http://www.funmusicco.com/private/pmlp3\\_resources/](http://www.funmusicco.com/private/pmlp3_resources/)

## Want a complete terms worth of lessons on The History of Rock and Roll?

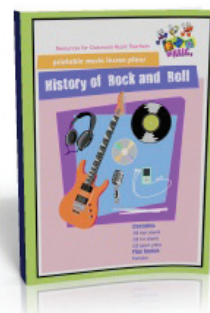
Hopefully this one sample lesson has given you a little taste of what this module on the History of Rock and Roll has to offer. The complete module includes 15 lessons, which start from the very beginnings of Rock and Roll, and go through to the Rock and Roll stars of today.

The Fifteen lessons in the module cover:

Lesson 1	How did Rock Begin?	Covering the start of Rock and Roll in the 50's: Bill Haley and The Comets, Chuck Berry & Little Richard.
Lesson 2	The King of Rock and Roll	Students will learn all about the profound influence of Elvis Presley on Rock and Roll.
Lesson 3	The Day the Music Died	Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and The Big Bopper, and the plane crash that shaped Rock Music History.
Lesson 4	The British Invasion	Learn about the Beatles and other British bands who dominated the pop music scene in the 1960's
Lesson 5	Soul Music Influence	Learn about essential soul musicians who influenced Rock and Roll, including Aretha Franklin, James Brown and others.
Lesson 6	Surf Music	The Beach Boys, The Mama's and the Papas, Surfaris & The Ventures and others.
Lesson 7	The Woodstock Era	Artists who performed at the Woodstock Music Festival and others from the era including Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, Cream and The Who
Lesson 8	The Punk Movement	The Sex Pistols, The Ramones and other bands who led the radical Punk Movement in the 1970s through to today.
Lesson 9	Disco Music	The Village People, ABBA, and other artists from this memorable era of the 70's and 80's.
Lesson 10	Solo Artists	Billy Joel, Elton John, Eric Clapton, Janet Jackson, Stevie Nicks and others.
Lesson 11	Hard Rock Styles	This Lesson explores the various Rock styles from the 1970's until today. Bands such as Led Zeppelin, Deep Purple, KISS and Bon Jovi
Lesson 12	Pop Music	Pop Artists covered include Michael Jackson, Madonna, Prince, Britney Spears and Miley Cyrus.
Lesson 13	Grunge Music	The Grunge Movement of the early 90's featuring Nirvana, Soundgarden and Pearl Jam.
Lesson 14	Dance Music	Dance Music - How it has evolved from Disco to the nightclubs of today, and the various sub-genres of dance music.
Lesson 15	One Hit Wonders	You've heard the song, but do you know the name of the band? A Fun Lesson on "One Hit Wonders".

Every Lesson includes:

- Full Fact Sheet ready for you to go through in class
- "Fill in the Blanks" fact Sheet
- "Fun Sheet" - fun style worksheet
- Unstructured List of Lesson Plan ideas
- Resources area with links to find all the recordings you need
- Prepared & editable presentation for your projector or digital whiteboard



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<http://www.funmusicco.com/music-lesson-plans>