

Rap and Hip Hop

Roots

- Rap and Hip Hop are easy to talk about.
 - Modern
 - American
 - Well documented
- The idea was not really new, but was presented in a new way.

Your definition

- What is rap?

What is it really?

○ Rap

- Poetry
 - Rhyming
 - Timing(rhythm)
- Background music
 - Drums
 - Bass
 - Synthesizers

What do we consider it?

○ A culture

- Rap is usually associated with a lifestyle.
 - Gangs
 - Crime
 - Poverty
- Stereotypes run the culture.

But it is different

- ◉ We make associations with a lot of music, but that doesn't mean we must fall into a category to perform a style of music.
 - Blues
 - Punk Rock
 - Country
 - Jazz
 - Classical

Early Rap

- ◉ If rap is poetry spoken to music, then this is rap: Opera
- ◉ Do you agree? Why or why not?

(Real) early rap

- The South Bronx was the birthplace of what we consider Rap.
- Youths who spent their time in the streets of the city created poems about life in the area.
- They would recite the poems for friends in order to express themselves.

Let's define these:

- ◉ DJ
- ◉ MC

◉ A DJ is a Disc Jockey

- DJs were known for selecting music to be played.
- They would use multiple turntables (or other devices) to seamlessly transition from one song to the next.
- A good DJ:
 - Picks the right song at the right time
 - Makes smooth transitions between two songs.
 - Creates the right mood for the venue.



◉ An MC is a Master of Ceremonies

- Traditionally:
 - Introduces the event, welcomes the guests and helps transition from one thing to the next.
- Now:
 - Runs the concert and helps build the energy of the group.

Both?

- Most fell into both categories.
 - One person could easily do both jobs effectively.

Criticisms

- Rap gets a bad rap.
- What reasons can you think of that people use to criticize rap?
- Are these things true?

Criticisms

- Inappropriate.
- Promotes a life of crime.
- Promotes violence.
- Too simple.
 - No melody
 - Usually just drums and a few other instruments
 - Why not just listen to poetry?

Timeline 1970's

- ◉ Most music on the radio was Disco.
- ◉ Others were listening to Rock and Roll.
- ◉ Many considered Rap to be a mutation of disco.
- ◉ Disco was rhythmic.

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Timeline 1970's

- Rap was a rebellion against Disco.
- Disco was for the rich, while rap and hip hop were for the poor.
- The poor could not attend the big parties, so they had their own.

What was rap at this point?

◉ DJs would:

- Create playlists of popular songs
- Transition and mix them together
- Say things to the audience while the music played (do you want to party? Oh yeah!)

◉ Which turned into:

- Remixing songs and taking out the lyrics
- Speaking rhythmically so they fit the song

People

◉ Grand Master Flash

- One of the first to scratch and “break” a record.
- He focused on Anti-Disco music.
- Created longer cuts of music that he could rap over.
- Known as a B-Boy, or Beat-Boy. In touch with the streets.

Timeline 1980's

- The original DJs and MCs had influenced a new generation. Rap and Hip-Hop were becoming popular enough that musicians had been recording and releasing their own albums.

Timeline 1980's

- ◉ Because musicians were recording, they started to form groups.
- ◉ These groups would play on the skills of each member.
- ◉ Rap was spreading across the country.

Timeline 1980's

- The East versus West conflict began.
- Each side was developing their own style based on what was popular in the area.
- How could this conflict be good and bad for the style of music?

East Coast

- “Hardcore”
- Started to become more political and controversial. Rappers were rapping about current events and big issues.

Rappers of the East Coast

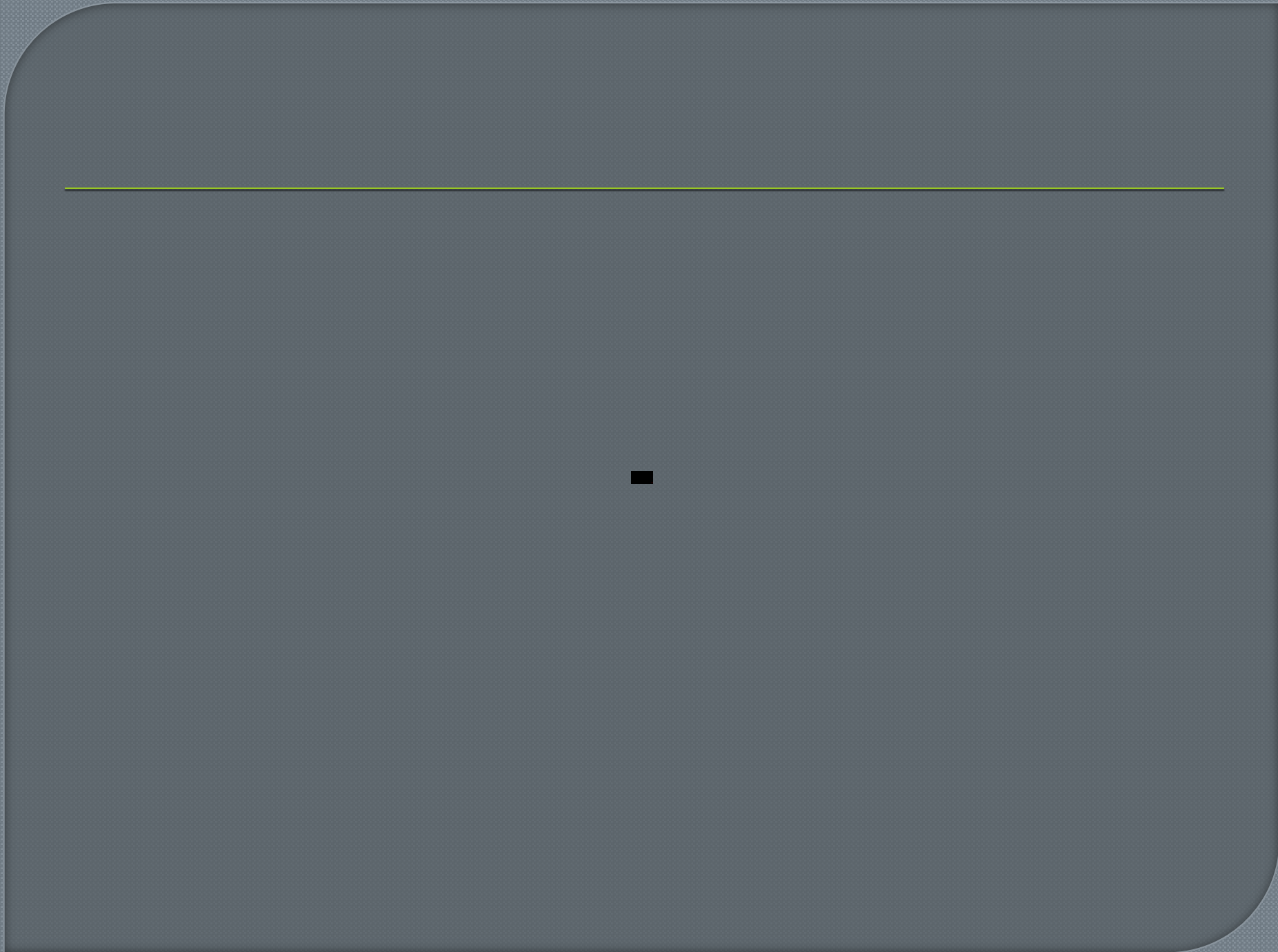
- ◉ Run DMC
- ◉ LL Cool J
- ◉ Slick Rick
- ◉ Public Enemy

West Coast

- ◉ Gangsta
- ◉ Focused more on life on the streets.
- ◉ Rappers were better known for being poor, or coming from poverty.

Rappers of the West Coast

- ◉ L.A. Dream Team
- ◉ Ice-T
- ◉ Tupac Shakur



Timeline Late 80's and 90's

- Not much changed in Rap after the 80's.
- At this point, though, Rap had mixed with a lot of other styles.
- Rap and rock were mixing together with tracks like:
 - Aerosmith and Run DMC – Walk This Way



Advanced ideas

- The 90's really turned rap into multiple directions.
 - Gangsta rap
 - Rock/Rap
 - Hip Hop
 - Many more

Hip Hop

- ◉ Hip Hop follows the musical direction of rap, but usually includes a singer.
- ◉ Many artists are both rappers and hip hop artists.



Listening activities

■
Outkast – Hey ya



Eminem – Lose yourself



Beastie Boys – Body movin'

Compare and contrast all three tunes.

How does each one handle each of these concepts:

- Rapping
- Singing
- Background music
- Repetition
- Lyrical content

After rap

- ◉ A lot of music was influenced by rap.
- ◉ EDM, or Electric Dance Music, is Hip-Hop that focuses on electric instruments. It is usually used in clubs.
- ◉ Nerdcore is the name used for rap that centers around computers, games, and pop culture.

Rhythm and Blues

- Traditional R&B is very different than its modern counterpart.
- Modern R&B is typically slower, focuses on singing, and combines ideas like soul music and gospel.
- Artists like John Legend lead the current R&B movement.