

# Reggae Reggae!



Can you find Jamaica on the map above?

This is where Reggae music comes from. Below is the flag of Jamaica.



Reggae which is afro-Caribbean music, was first heard in the UK in the 1950s when immigrants began to settle here. It was then known as Ska or Bluebeat. During the 1960s, people began importing singles from Jamaica to sell in UK shops. At this point, it had a lively, quick tempo and had an uplifting sound. The sound of reggae music is often closely associated with the country and culture it comes from- hot, sunny and chilled out!

It has sometimes been criticised as it has been linked to controversial issues such as the use of cannabis but most Reggae songs deal with more light hearted subjects such as religion, love, peace, poverty, anti-racism and political issues.

There are 3 main types of Reggae- Ska, Rock Steady and Dub. Ska very quick and lively, whilst Rock Steady tended to be slower. Dub emerged in the 1970s and used modern technology to remix drum beats and add effects to the music such as delay and echo.

Gradually, the popularity of Reggae grew both in Jamaica and the UK. By the end of the 1970s, Reggae was still going strong and had become a regular style of music to be heard in the top 40 charts. British bands such as UB40 had taken onboard the Reggae style and given it a fresher sound. This was closely followed by a Ska revival and bands such as Madness followed in UB40s footsteps.

Perhaps the most famous musician associated with Reggae is Bob Marley. Born in Jamaica in 1945 he formed a vocal group with Peter Tosh, Bunny Livingstone and Junior Braithwaite. The group were inspired by the music of black vocal groups but eventually they formed their own style. By the 70s, Marley had become world famous and his cool, relaxed vocals were known by many. It was not just music that Marley had helped make more popular but also dreadlocks and Rastafarianism. Sadly, in 1980 he was diagnosed with cancer and died on May 11th 1981.



Task 1: Write the question followed by your answer.

1. In which country did Reggae music originate?
2. In which decade was it first heard?
3. What was Reggae known as to begin with? Ska and .....
4. Why has Reggae music sometimes been criticised?
5. List 4 subjects that Reggae music often deals with.
6. Name the 3 main types of Reggae music and what they sound like.
7. Name 2 British bands that used the Reggae style in their music.
8. Who is the most famous Reggae musician and in which year were they born?
9. What two things did Bob Marley help to make more popular?
10. In which year did Bob Marley die?

Task 2

In your book on a new page, write 'JAMAICA' at the top in large letters. You then need to draw a picture of Jamaica, use the map on the front of this sheet to help you. Finally, underneath your map, draw the Jamaican flag and colour it in the correct colours.