



Disco

Back in the early 1970s, something special happened in the big cities of America, like New York City and Philadelphia. It was called disco music! Disco was born from funky, soulful dance-beats and was recognised by its pulsating rhythms, four-on-the-floor beat and lush orchestration with prominent use of brass and strings.

What made disco special? It had this super catchy beat that made everyone want to dance. It was all about having fun! Disco was like a big, welcoming hug. People from all backgrounds, no matter where they came from, who they were or who they liked, could come together to dance and have a good time.

Disco also made DJs famous. They were like musical wizards who played the music that kept the party going. People even dressed in wild and colourful clothes like bell-bottom trousers and plat-form shoes, just to look cool on the dancefloor!



Key Vocabulary	
disco	a genre of music known for its danceable beat and energetic rhythm
rhythm	the pattern of beats in music that makes it easy to dance to
dynamics	changes in volume and intensity in a song
melody	the catchy tune or musical line that you can sing along with
harmony	the combination of different musical notes that sound pleasing together
instrumentation	the choice of instruments used in a song
genre	a category or style of music
cultural significance	how music reflects and influences the culture of a particular time and place

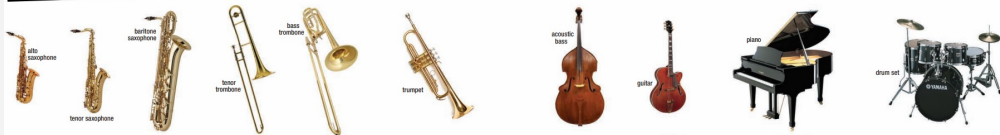
Identifying rhythm: Disco uses a specific drum beat called 4 on the floor. Usually, this is played on a bass drum and can be heard distinctly.

Understanding dynamics: there are often distinct sections of music that are deliberately louder or quieter used for effect.

Music history: Disco has a significant cultural background coming from the civil rights movement in the 60s and 70s in America..

Recognising instruments: Disco music uses orchestral instruments especially strings and then instruments from jazz such as trumpets, trombones and saxophones.

The Instruments

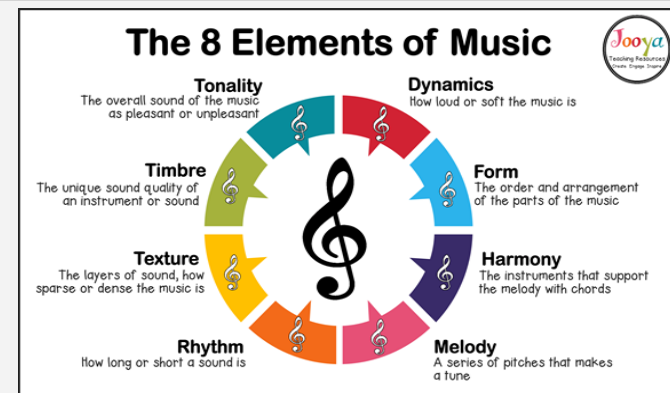


DRUM KEY
 HELMET X CRASH
 SNARE
 BASS
 THE FOOT X

STAYIN' ALIVE

Funk ♩ = 104 (lightly swing 16s)

Some auxiliary percussion
 Performance note: Lightly accented



Famous tracks: "Stayin' Alive" by the Bee Gees and "I Will Survive" by Gloria Gaynor.

Comparing genres: Disco was a new style of music that took elements of classical music, jazz, funk and soul. Elements of all of these styles can be heard in disco music, such as lavish string sections of music and wah, wah guitar.

Artists and Composers: famous musicians like Donna Summer and KC and the Sunshine Band and Nile Rodgers



Gloria Gaynor



The Bee Gees