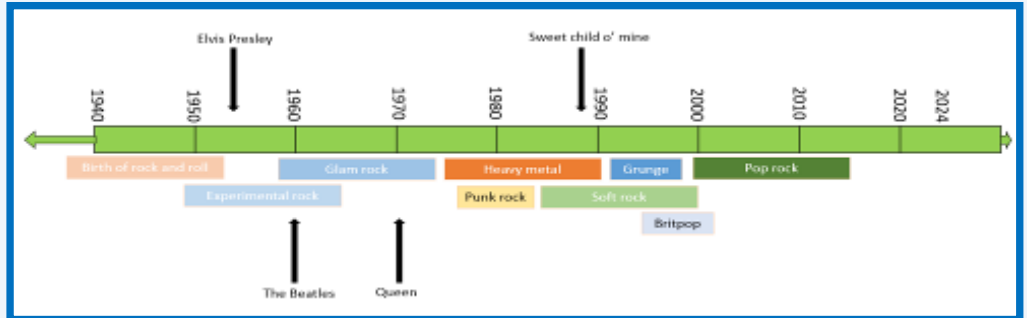


History of Rock Music

Rock is a popular music style which came from America during the late 1940s and early 1950s. It emerged as a result of Black American musical styles such as blues, boogie, ragtime and gospel music. In the early 1940s, the saxophone or piano were often the lead instrument but this was replaced with the guitar in the 50s. The classic rock sound is created with one or two electric guitars, an electric bass guitar, a double bass and drums. Rock songs follow a verse-chorus structure and often use power chords. Many rock bands were formed in the 1960s. Rock bands include: Queen, The Beatles and Led Zeppelin.



Key Vocabulary

harmony	a tune that follows a similar pattern to the melody using different notes to compliment the sound
melody	the main tune to which the lyrics are sung
tempo	the speed at which a piece of music is played
timbre	the distinct quality of a piece of music that can be described with words such as light, flat, smooth, smoky, rough, breathy

C Major Scale

The notes on staff show how high or low a note is. The higher up the lines (staff) the higher the pitch. Some rock vocalists, like Axel Rose from Guns and Roses have a huge range of pitches from bass notes up to treble, up to 4 **octaves** (4 groups of 8 notes).

Dynamics show how the music changes over time. Lots of rock music is loud denoted by meaning fortissimo *ff* or very loud. The opposite is very quiet pianissimo *pp*.

ff

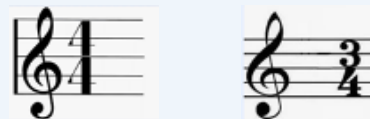
pp







Musicians also shows changes in dynamics (getting louder and quieter).

Rock music usually follows a really simple structure. A verse, followed by a repeated verse (usually with different lyrics) a chorus another verse chorus and then a **bridge**. A bridge is a piece of music with the song that has a different feel or timbre. It is used to break up the song. It usually has lyrics of its own. Sometimes in rock music artists will use instrumental solos, usually the lead guitarist, to show off their talent.

Music is written as a series of notes. The **pitch** is described by how high up the staff the note is drawn. The duration is shown by different shapes of note. A lot of music is written in common time or 4/4. This means there are 4 beats in a **bar** (a section of the music) and each beat is worth 1 quarter note, also called a **crotchet**.



Some songs are in 3/4 time. This means that there are 3 crotchets to each bar.

Note	Name	Beats
	Whole note	4 beats
	Half note	2 beats
	Quarter note	1 beat
	Eighth note	½ beat
	Sixteenth note	¼ beat