

## HIP HOP

This is the genre of music that basically involves rapping.

In general, Hip Hop has a number of associated concepts both musically and socially as listed below.

MCing/ Rapping, DJing/scratching with records/turntables, use of sampling, use of drum machines, beatboxing, break dancing and graffiti writing.

Hip hop / rapping started in the early 70s with DJs and was formalised in 1979 with the release of "Rappers Delight" by The Sugarhill Gang.

### The Sugarhill Gang

"Rappers Delight" - 1979 .

Members: Wonder Mike, Master Gee, Big Bank Hank (deceased) from New Jersey.

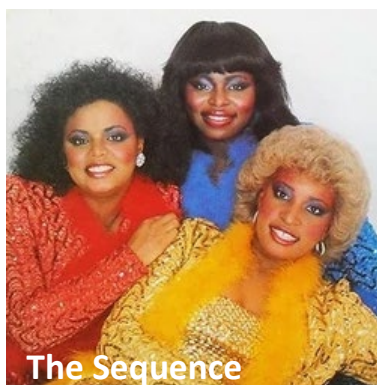
They released FOUR albums in the 80s & ONE in 1999.

*Early hip-hop was influenced by DISCO.* "Rappers Delight" - Sugarhill Gang used Chic's "Good Times" as the foundation.



Other releases that year that were in a similar vein. [Fatback Band](#) - "King Tim III (Personality Jock)" March 1979.

"Funk You Up" (1979), the first hip hop record released by a female group, and the second single released by [Sugar Hill Records](#), was performed by [the Sequence](#) (1979-1985), a group from [Columbia, South Carolina](#) which featured [Angie Stone](#), [Cheryl Cook](#) (Cheryl the Pearl) and [Gwendolyn Chisolm](#) (Blondie).



**Another early major release in 1982 was "The Message" by Grand Master Flash.**

## **Grand Master Flash and the Furious Five**

Members: Grand Master Flash (Joseph Saddler) - family moved from Barbados to the Bronx.

Keef Cowboy (died drug overdose 1989) - credited with creating the term hip hop.

Melie Mel

Kidd Creole - formed his own group Kid Creole and the Coconuts; (recently sentenced to 16 years jail for murder)

Scorpio

Rahiem

Kidd Creole and Melie Mel - first rappers to call themselves MCs

Single: "The Message" - 1982

### **TWO Albums only in the 80s**

1982 "The Message" (Sugarhill Records)

1988 "On The Strength" (Elektra)



## **Important Record Labels**

**Ruthless Records** founded in 1987 by Easy E (NWA) Artists: NWA, Bone Thugs-n-Harmony

**Death Row Records** founded in 1991 by Dr Dre (NWA) Artists: Snoop Dogg, 2Pac

**Bad Boy Records** founded in 1991 by Puff Daddy (Sean "Puffy" Combs) Artists: Notorious B.I.G.

**Aftermath Records** founded in 1996 by Dr Dre - Artists: Eminem, Kendrick Lamar, 50 Cent, Busta Rhymes

**Roc-A-Fella** founded in 1994 by Jay-Z Artists: Jay-Z, Kanye West

**Def Jam** founded in 1984 by Rick Rubin Artists: Justin Bieber, LL Cool J, Rihanna, Public Enemy, Snoop Dogg

**Cash Money** founded in 1991 by brothers Ronald "Slim" Williams and Bryan "Birdman" Williams  
Artists: Lil Wayne, Drake, Nicki Minaj

## ***There are a few schools of hip hop.***

- (i) **Old School Hip Hop** 1979 - 1983: Grand Master Flash, Sugarhill Gang, The Sequence, Rock Steady Crew
- (ii) **New School Hip Hop** 1983 - 1986: Run DMC, LL Cool J



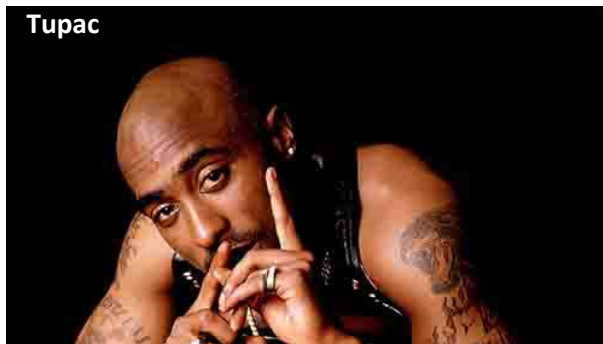
- (iii) **Golden Age Hip Hop:** 1986 - 1997: Public Enemy, De La Soul, LL Cool J, Run DMC, Beastie Boys beginning with the releases of Run-DMC's *Raising Hell* and the Beastie Boys' *Licensed to Ill*, and ending with the deaths of [Tupac Shakur](#) and [the Notorious B.I.G.](#)

### **Public Enemy members** (formed New York, 1985)

Chuck D, Flavor Flav, (Professor Griff, Terminator X - past members)

DJ Lord, Sammy Sam - newer members

Record Labels signed to: Def Jam (*first five albums*), Play It Again Sam( PIAS ), Koch, Slam Jamz, Enemy Records, Split Digital



## ***East Coast Hip Hop - West Coast Hip Hop Rivalry 1991-1997***

This was a feud between artists and fans of East Coast Hip Hop and West Coast Hip Hop.

East Coast - Notorious BIG (Bad Boy Records)

West Coast - Tupac Shakur (Death Row Records)

Because rap originated on the East Coast, New York rappers were often perceived as thinking their hip hop culture was superior. This generated the bad feeling, along with a certain inferiority complex developed by West Coast hip hop culture.

Artists from both labels released tracks "dissing" the other.

The feud culminated in the murder of both rappers in drive by shootings. Tupac (1996) & BIG(1997).

#### (iv) **Gangsta Rap**

is a [subgenre](#) of hip hop that reflects the violent lifestyles of inner-city American black youths.

A number of rappers had links to gangs such as [Bloods](#) and [Crips](#).

Artists of this genre: Schooly D (Philadelphia) (first single & album - 1985, active since 1984), Ice-T (born New Jersey, moved to South LA in early teens) (first single -1983, first album 1- 1987), NWA(1988 - first single 1987, first album 1988 formed 1986 California), Tupac (1992 born New York City, moved to San Francisco 1988), Snoop Dogg (California, first single & album 1993, active since 1992)

The classic example is NWA - their lyrics were more violent, openly confrontational, and shocking.

#### **NWA members (formed Los Angeles 1987)**

Arabian Prince, Dr Dre, DJ Yella, Eazy-E(died 1995), Ice Cube (Now acting), MC Ren

2 studio albums only: "Straight Outta Compton" (1988); "Niggaz4Life" (1991).



"The reason why rap is under attack is because it exposes all the contradictions of American culture ...What started out as an underground art form has become a vehicle to expose a lot of critical issues that are not usually discussed in American politics. The problem here is that the White House and wanna-bes like Bill Clinton represent a political system that never intends to deal with inner city urban chaos," **Sister Souljah** told *The Times*.

#### **Some of the earliest examples / influences**

The Jubalaires - although primarily a gospel harmony group featured a rhythmic rhyming style of vocal delivery in the verses hence their inclusion here.

1941 The Jubalaires - "The Preacher and the BEAR".

1946 The Jubalaires - "Noah"

1950 Joe Hill Louis "Gotta Let You Go" (released on Sun Records) - more a blues artist but this track is an early bluesy kind of rap.

#### **Other people attributed with early forms of rap**

Boxer [Muhammad Ali](#) anticipated elements of rap, often using [rhyme schemes](#) and [spoken word](#) poetry.

[Bob Dylan](#) in "It's Alright Ma I'm Only Bleeding".



### Notable Hip Hop artists today:

Drake, Eminem, The Weeknd, Kanye West, Jay-Z, Kendrick Lamar, Travis Scott, J. Cole, Snoop Dogg, Post Malone, Dr Dre, Wiz Khalifa, Lil Wayne, DaBaby, Future, Tyler the Creator, Nas



JAY-Z



EMINEM



KANYE WEST



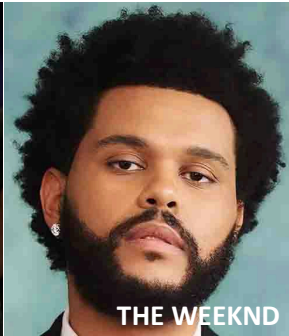
DRAKE



LIL WAYNE



J. COLE



THE WEEKND



SNOOP DOGG



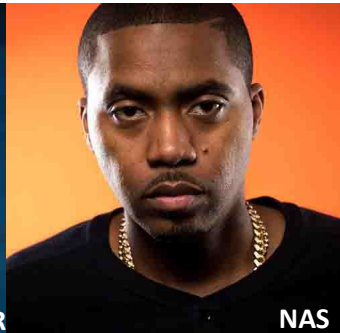
KENDRICK LAMAR



TRAVIS SCOTT



TYLER THE CREATOR



NAS

### List of Deceased Rappers - in fact there are over 600 the most famous being

Tupac (1996 age 25, shot)

Notorious BIG (1997 age 24 shot)

Eazy-E (1995 age 30) from NWA

Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes (car accident 2002 age 30) from TLC

DMX (drug overdose 2021 age 50)

Of the rest, most were shot, most were under 29, some were stabbed, some died of drug related issues either overdose or heart failure, a few from Covid19 and one from a home made bomb while attempting a robbery!