

Key concepts

Rock and Roll was invented in the 1950s.
It was invented in America.
Rock and Roll was influenced by The Blues, jazz and gospel.
The most influential Rock and Roll singer was Elvis Presley.
Rock and Roll music includes a variety of tempo and dynamics.
Rock and Roll usually consists of strong vocals, which can include screaming and shouting.
Staying in time means keeping to a steady beat, not going faster or slower than the music.

The Bassline

All Rock and Roll music has a bass line. The bass line is usually played by a bass guitar or double bass. It gives the music some depth.

Bass Guitar



The largest and lowest-pitched stringed instrument

Double Bass



The lowest-pitched member of the guitar family.

Key Vocabulary

jazz	Jazz is a music genre that originated in the African-American communities of New Orleans
gospel	Gospel music is a genre of Christian music.
The Blues	A music genre and musical form which was originated in the Deep South of the United States around the 1870s
tempo	The speed of the music
dynamics	How loud or soft the music is (volume)
Hand jive	A dance consisting of a pattern of hand moves and claps at various parts of the body,
Bass line	The lowest-pitched layer of a rock and roll melody.

What is Rock and Roll?

Rock and Roll was created in **1950s** America after the war and was made to depict happiness and a new life. The name comes from the phrase '**rocking and rolling**', which was used by mariners to explain the movement of a ship, which influenced the dance steps. Rock and roll arrived at a time of considerable technological change, soon after the development of the electric guitar, amplifier and microphone, and the 45 rpm record. The most famous Rock and Roll dance is '**The Jive**' (called '**The Lindy Hop**' in America).

Famous Rock and Rollers

Elvis Aaron Presley



Chuck Berry



Bill Haley

Things to do at home

Practise the 'Hand Jive'

