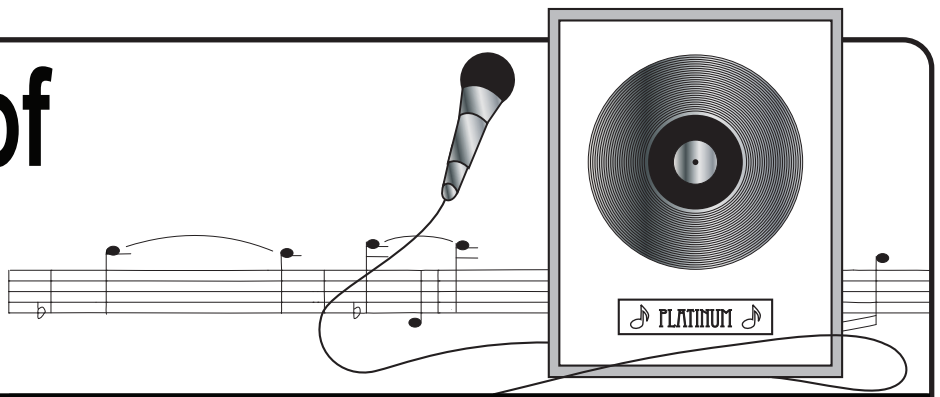


The History of Hip Hop



Directions: Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

It is said that hip hop music was born at a birthday party in the Bronx, NY. This popular genre of music started out as party music in the 1970s. It was played by local DJs in the city neighborhoods.

DJs put different pieces of music together. They did this to make new sounds. Then, rapping was added. Rapping is a way of talking over the music with words that rhyme. DJs arranged the beats so that rappers could find a rhythm. Then, the rappers would speak in time with the beat. Rappers often wrote lyrics, or the words of a song, about their own lives.

At first, hip hop served as a response to disco. Disco was a dance music craze in the 1970s. Disco was all about wealth and status. Hip hop emphasized reality and community. Hip hop music and culture became helpful to musicians and listeners. It was a way for them to deal with the difficult things about city life.

Hip hop quickly became an artistic outlet for African Americans. It was a new way to tell stories. From there, hip hop evolved from just a type of music to an entire lifestyle.

Hip hop is an art form that continues to evolve and impact communities today. New artists and new sounds are brought into the genre. The new styles continue to become popular. Hip hop is a genre that is heard and enjoyed all over the world.

1. How are hip hop and disco related? _____

2. Why do you think hip hop is an important music genre for African Americans? _____

3. What are two things that make hip hop unique? _____

4. What is one notable fact about how hip hop music was created? _____

5. In your own words, write a definition for *rapping*. _____

