

Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will have a deeper understanding of the history and cultural significance of rap music, including its origins, major artists, and its impact on society. The student will also create their own rap lyrics to express their thoughts and feelings creatively.

Materials and Prep

- Notebook or paper for writing lyrics
- Pencil or pen
- Access to a device for listening to rap music (optional)
- Printed information about the history of rap music (can be created by the teacher)
- Background knowledge of important rap artists and their contributions

Activities

- **Listening Session:** Begin the lesson by listening to a few iconic rap songs. Discuss the themes and messages in the lyrics. Choose songs from different eras to show the evolution of the genre.
- **Timeline Creation:** Create a timeline of significant events in the history of rap music. Include important artists, albums, and cultural moments that shaped the genre.
- **Lyric Writing:** Encourage the student to write their own rap lyrics. They can choose a topic they are passionate about, whether it's a personal experience or a social issue they care about.
- **Artist Research:** Select a famous rapper and research their life and contributions to music. Present the findings in a creative way, such as a poster or a digital presentation.

Talking Points

- "Rap music started in the 1970s in the Bronx, New York. It was a way for people to express themselves and share their stories."
- "Did you know that rap is a form of poetry? The way artists use rhythm and rhyme is similar to how poets write!"
- "Some of the first rappers were DJs who would mix music at parties. They would talk over the beats to get the crowd excited!"
- "Artists like Grandmaster Flash and Run-D.M.C. were pioneers who helped make rap popular."
- "Rap can address serious topics like poverty, violence, and social justice. What do you think about that?"
- "Today, rap music is one of the most popular genres in the world! It has influenced fashion, language, and even movies!"
- "Do you have a favorite rap artist? What do you like about their music?"
- "Rap battles are competitions where rappers try to outdo each other with clever lyrics and wordplay. Would you want to try a friendly rap battle?"

- "Many rappers use their platform to talk about issues in their communities. Why do you think that's important?"
- "The beat in rap music is just as important as the lyrics. It sets the mood for the entire song!"
- "Creating your own rap lyrics is a fun way to express your feelings and ideas. What message do you want to share?"
- "Rap has many different styles and sub-genres. Have you heard of trap, conscious rap, or old school? Which one do you like the most?"