

Materials You'll Need:

- Computer or tablet with internet access
- Headphones or speakers
- Notebook or paper
- Pen or pencil

Welcome, Future Rock Star!

Get ready to crank up the volume (maybe not *too* loud!) because today we're diving headfirst into the awesome world of **80s Rock!** This was a decade of big hair, bright colors, and even bigger guitar solos. It was a time when rock music dominated the radio waves and MTV with catchy songs, incredible energy, and unforgettable style.

What Made 80s Rock... Rock?

While there were many subgenres, 80s rock often featured:

- **Anthemic Choruses:** Songs you just *had* to sing along to, often with layered vocals.
- **Guitar Heroes:** Flashy, technical guitar solos were a signature sound.
- **Synthesizers:** Keyboards and synths added new textures and sounds alongside traditional rock instruments.
- **Power Ballads:** Slow, emotional songs that still packed a punch (and often a killer guitar solo).
- **Distinctive Look:** Think big hair, leather, denim, neon colors, and maybe some spandex!

Meet Some Legends of the Era:

Let's listen to some examples from iconic bands. Think about the characteristics we just discussed as you listen.

- **Bon Jovi:** Known for stadium anthems. Listen to: "Livin' On A Prayer"
- **Def Leppard:** Fused hard rock with pop hooks. Listen to: "Pour Some Sugar On Me"
- **Journey:** Masters of the power ballad and arena rock. Listen to: "Don't Stop Believin'"
- **Guns N' Roses:** Brought a harder, grittier edge later in the decade. Listen to: "Sweet Child o' Mine"

(Note: You can easily find these songs on YouTube or streaming services. Always ask a parent if you need help searching online!)

Activity 1: Rock Analysis!

Choose two songs from the list above (or find another 80s rock song you like!). For each song, write down:

1. The Band and Song Title
2. What instruments can you clearly hear? (Guitars, drums, bass, keyboard, vocals?)
3. What's the tempo like? (Fast, slow, medium?) Does it change?
4. What's the overall mood of the song? (Energetic, sad, angry, hopeful?)
5. Does it have a memorable guitar solo?
6. Does it have a chorus that makes you want to sing along?

Activity 2: Your 80s Rock Mixtape

Imagine you're making a mixtape (ask your parents what those were!) of the ultimate 80s rock anthems. List your Top 5 80s rock songs (they can be from the bands mentioned or others you discover). For each song, write one sentence explaining why you chose it.

Explore More! (Optional)

If you're feeling extra adventurous:

- Research the fashion of 80s rock stars. What were the most popular trends?
- Pick one band and learn more about their history.
- Explore different subgenres like Glam Metal, Hard Rock, or Arena Rock from the 80s.

Wrapping Up

The 80s were a truly electrifying time for rock music, leaving behind a legacy of unforgettable songs and influential artists. From soaring vocals to shredding guitars, it created a sound that still resonates today. Keep exploring and rock on!