LA COUNTY LIBRARY

Activity Idea

The Message: A History of Hip Hop

Recommended for Adults

Hip Hop music, or rap, is a genre of music that originated in the Bronx in the 1970s. Hip Hop got its start in block parties that were popular in New York City. Early DJs would use two turn tables and a mixer to play the break from a song. By having two copies of the song DJs were able to extend the break of the song. This gave way to scratching and beatmatching, where DJs faded from one song to the next by matching the beat of two songs. The art of rap has been influenced by many other art forms from jazz to poets like Gil Scott-Herron to announcements made over the beats about the next party. Many Hip Hop artists trace rap, as we know it today, to DJ Hollywood, the house DJ at the Apollo Theater. DJ Hollywood is credited with giving rap its flow and was the first to bring turntables to the theater. Hip Hop stayed underground until 1979 when "Rapper's Delight" by The Sugar Hill Gang hit the airwaves. Today Hip Hop is one of the world's most popular music genres and is no long confined to the block parties of New York City.

Books

How to Rap by Paul Edwards on Hoopla tinyurl.com/tqy6wq6
God Save the Queens by Kathy Iandoli on Hoopla tinyurl.com/yxxdp9a4
The History of Gangster Rap by Soren Baker on Hoopla tinyurl.com/qkjgx58
The Rap Yearbook by Shea Serrano on Hoopla tinyurl.com/ro7nqh2

Films

"Nas: Time is Illmatic" on Kanopy tinyurl.com/tk6kkzd
"Fresh Dressed" on Kanopy tinyurl.com/v3lcvyr
"Something from Nothing: The Art of Rap" on Kanopy tinyurl.com/ttn29dl

Playlist

Queens Hip Hop Essentials on Freegal tinyurl.com/tqyr7dn
90s Hip Hop Class on Freegal tinyurl.com/s7v7scd

Spark an Idea!

Try making your own beats and putting down a rhyme using a couple of these free apps:
Song Maker tinyurl.com/y5rgv3of
Patatap tinyurl.com/y2qymweg