



KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: MUSICAL GENRE 9

Origins...

- *Reggae originated in **Jamaica** in the 1960s
- *The style incorporates jazz, R and B, traditional *mento* and the earlier genre known as *ska*
- ***Ska** music sounds like Reggae and also originated in Jamaica. They sound very similar however Reggae is slower and more laidback
- ***Mento** is a style of Jamaican folk music that traditionally uses acoustic instruments.



The Style...

- *Reggae is instantly recognisable as it has an off-beat rhythm played by a rhythm guitarist. This 'off-beat' is called 'skank.' The bass drum hits on the second and fourth beat of each bar. These are called the 'drop.'

For example: Count **1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and And'** is the off-beat and the 'skank;' **2 and 4** is the 'drop'

- *Reggae music is linked with a religion that developed in Jamaica called **Rastafarianism**
- *The lyrics in Reggae music are often about news, social problems, religion and politics
- *Famous instruments in reggae music are drums, guitar, saxophone, trumpet and trombone
- *Reggae songs often have lots of backing singers.

Jamaica...

- *Jamaica is the fourth largest island in the **Caribbean** and **Kingston** is its capital city
- *Jamaica is tropical and prone to hurricanes
- *Jamaica was a British colony from 1655 when Britain captured it from the Spanish. Jamaica became an independent country in 1962
- *Jamaica exports bananas, coffee and sugar
- *Athlete **Usain Bolt** is Jamaican



Bob Marley...



- *Robert Nesta Marley was an important Jamaican musician in the 70s and 80s who made reggae very popular all over the world

- *His music told stories of his home and the Rastafarian religion he followed. Some songs were also about politics
- *Bob's dad was a white man called Norvall Marley originally from *Sussex* but living and working in Jamaica when he met his mum
- *Bob started his music career in the 1960s with his group **The Wailers**
- *Bob toured England and the US in the 70s and had his first international hit in 1975 with '*No Woman No Cry*'
- *Other hits of his include "*Three Little Birds*", "*Africa Unite*", "*Buffalo Soldier*", and "*One Love*". His most popular studio album was called **Legend**, which includes his greatest hits.
- *Bob had over 11 children. Most of these have gone on to become well-known reggae artists in their own right
- *Bob was only 36 when he sadly died of skin cancer

Key music and artists to listen to...

- THE ALBUM 'LEGEND' - Bob Marley!!!!
- Desmond Dekker and the Aces**—Israelites
- Toots and the Maytals**—Pressure Drop
- Magic!** - Rude
- UB40** –Red Red Wine
- Lee 'Scratch' Perry**—I Chase the Devil
- Jimmy Cliff**—Many Rivers to Cross
- The Melodians**—Rivers of Babylon
- Jason Mraz**—I'm Yours
- The Abyssinians**—Satta Massagana