



KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: KEY COMPOSER 7

THE BEATLES

1960—1970



Abbey Road (My favourite)

The Beatles' 11th album released by Apple Records in 1969. Essential listening!

EMI Studios was renamed Abbey Road Studios in honour of the album.

Suggested listening: Come Together

PAUL McCARTNEY MBE

***Co-lead vocalist and bass player**

*Formed a band called Wings after The Beatles

*His charity work and projects include working for animal rights, vegetarianism, poverty, music education and raising awareness of dangerous land mines

*Co-wrote most of the songs by The Beatles with John Lennon

JOHN LENNON MBE

***Co-lead vocalist and rhythm guitarist**

*He was a peace activist which meant he tried hard to end conflict

*He married Yoko Ono and wrote a famous song called Imagine after The Beatles

*He was shot and killed in New York in 1980



Skiffle

This is a musical style that is influenced by jazz, blues and American folk music

Rock and Roll

A style that evolved from jazz, country, rhythm and blues in the 1950s. It had a strong back beat and increasingly used electric instruments. This style evolved into Rock music as we know it.

Vocalist

The person who sings in a band or pop group.

GEORGE HARRISON MBE

***Lead guitarist**

*He incorporated Indian instruments such as the sitar in the music by The Beatles notably in Norwegian Wood

*He wrote Taxman, Here Comes the Sun and Something

*He died of lung cancer on 2001

RINGO STARR MBE

***Drummer**

*Ringo Starr joined the band a few years after they had grouped together

*He wrote and sang Yellow Submarine and Octopus's Garden

*Ringo's real name is Richard Starkey

The Beatles

The Beatles were an English Rock band formed in **Liverpool** in 1960. They are regarded as the most influential band of all time. Paul, John, George and Ringo have all received an MBE. This stands for Member of the Order of the British Empire and was awarded to them by the queen for significant achievement and contribution to the United Kingdom. Their style (in the early days) was rooted in 50s American Rock and Roll which is called **Skiffle**. They later explored other styles including Indian music, ballads and hard rock. They built their reputation by playing in clubs in Liverpool over 3 years before making it famous. The Beatles even starred in films—the first was *Hard Day's Night* in 1964, the last was *Let it Be* in 1970.

Their **manager** was **Brian Epstein** (he made them a professional act) and their **producer** was **George Martin** (he guided and developed their recordings).

The Beatles' first hit was *Love Me Do* in 1962. Intense fan frenzy was called **Beatlemania**.

Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Heart's Club Band is another fantastic, must listen to, album, released in 1967.