

HISTORY OF THE BEATLES

1. _____

As musicians, the Beatles proved that rock & roll music could embrace a limitless variety of harmonies, structures and sounds. The group was formed in Liverpool, England in 1957 after John Lennon met Paul McCartney and invited him to join his group "The Quarrymen".

2. _____

Paul soon convinced John to let George Harrison join the group, which soon changed its name to "Johnny and the Moondogs". In 1960 the group officially changed their name to The Beatles. In 1962 the group was signed to EMI record label with producer George Martin.

3. _____

That same year they added Ringo Starr as drummer. John played rhythm guitar, Paul played bass guitar, George played lead guitar, Ringo played drums and everyone sang.

TWIST AND SHOUT

4. _____

John Lennon was born October 9th 1940 during a German Air Raid at a hospital in Liverpool England. He started playing guitar at the age of 16 and was playing in a band soon afterwards. John met Paul about a year later. John's father told John not to hang out with Paul because he was from a "working class" family. Paul's father told Paul that John Lennon would get Paul into trouble.

5. _____

When the Beatles formed John was 20 years old, Paul was 18 and George was only 17. They started by playing at beer halls in Hamburg, Germany but had to stop when George was deported for being too young to get a work permit. Their music was mostly covers of Chuck Berry, Little Richard, Carl Perkins and Buddy Holly.

SHE LOVES YOU

6. _____

On February 21st in 1961 they played their first of nearly 300 performances at the now famous Cavern Club in Liverpool. In 1962 they recorded two original singles, "Love Me Do" and "P.S. I Love You", which became their first top 20 hit in England. The next year they recorded their first album "Please Please Me" in one 10-hour session.

LOVE ME DO

7. _____

By mid-1963 they had top billing on a National tour and the hysterical outbreaks of Beatlemania had begun. By Fall they had moved to London with their Manager, Brian Epstein, and had become so famous that they were mobbed by screaming fans and required police protection almost any time they were seen in public.

8. _____

In 1964 with two more albums released they traveled to New York City and appeared on the Ed Sullivan show and were watched by more than 70 million people on each of their two appearances. Just before the Beatles arrived in New York, "I Want to Hold Your Hand" became America's #1 record.

I WANT TO HOLD YOUR HAND Key of C

9. _____

Soon afterwards their record "Can't Buy Me Love" became the first record to top the charts in the U.S. and England at the same time. The bands popularity was aggressively merchandised with Beatle Wigs, Beatle clothes, Beatle dolls, lunch boxes and a cartoon series.

CAN'T BUY ME LOVE Key of E (C7 capo 4)

10. _____

By 1965 the Beatles music themes began to extend beyond love songs and pop formulas as they became spokesmen for the youth culture. Their lyrics grew more poetic and somewhat more political. In August they performed to 55,600 fans at New York's Shea Stadium, setting a record for the largest concert audience. "Yesterday" is a song originally recorded by The Beatles for their 1965 album Help!. According to the Guinness Book of Records, "Yesterday" has the most cover versions of any song ever written.

Yesterday Key of C

11. _____

The Beatles gave up touring after a concert on August 29, 1966 at San Francisco's Candlestick Park. The rest of their music was made in the studio where they experimented with exotic instrumentation like sitars, reversed tape abstractions and electronically altered sounds. By then George and even Ringo had started to contribute to the song writing. "Help" is from the Beatles second Movie and is the title track.

HELP! Key B

12. _____

"Drive My Car" is a song by the Beatles, written primarily by Paul McCartney. It was first released on the band's 1965 album Rubber Soul. Over the years the song has been covered by many artists such as former Spice Girls member Melanie C and Lulu, ^[2] and the US band Breakfast Club.

DRIVE MY CAR

13. _____

In 1967, after four months and at a cost of \$75,000 the Beatles released Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, which was hailed as serious art for its concept and its range of styles and sounds. Such songs as "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds" and "A Day in the Life" were carefully examined for hidden meanings. The album spent 15 weeks at number one and sold over 8 million copies.

14. _____

In September 1969 John informed the others that he was leaving the group. The official announcement came from Paul in April 1970 when McCartney released his first solo album. All four Beatles were successful in their solo careers in music.

15. _____

Sadly, John Lennon was killed in December 1980 by a deranged fan in New York City. George Harrison passed away from cancer in 2001. Paul and Ringo continue to make music and perform to this day. George Harrison wrote Here Comes the Sun in Eric Clapton's garden.

HERE COMES THE SUN Guitar only D (Capo 2)

16. _____

In 1988 the Beatles were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Their list of accomplishments is staggering: 36 albums released in the United Kingdom, 42 albums released in the United States, 53 singles, 20 extended play albums and 13 movies. Yellow Submarine was the title track of a cartoon movie by the Beatles.

YELLOW SUBMARINE Key of G (capo 2) alternates between C and G

17. _____

"Octopus's Garden" is a song by the Beatles written and sung by Ringo Starr from the Beatles' 1969 album Abbey Road.¹ It was the last song released by the Beatles featuring Starr on lead vocals. The song was inspired by Ringo's desire to escape mounting hostility among the Beatles; he had "just wanted to be under the sea." It has been performed by the Muppets several times in various episodes of their shows.^[8]

OCTOPUS' GARDEN

18. _____

At 170 million records, they are the top selling recording act of all time. Today people of all ages continue to fall in love with Beatles music from an incredible era that is now over 40 years old.

Our last Beatles song is called "Eight Days a Week".

EIGHT DAYS A WEEK