



Hip Hop and Rap

History and
Development

Origins

- South Bronx in the 1970s
- DJ Kool Herc introduced large sound systems
- Mixed percussive sections of older songs with popular dance songs
- Birth of the extended break beat



Pictured: Run D.M.C.

Hip Hop is an umbrella term that covers multiple elements such as Deejaying, rapping (MCing) , Grafitti painting and B-boying (hip hop dance style)

Influenced by Funk, Disco, Soul, R&B, Reggae and Scat Singing

Sound systems commonly found in Caribbean countries like Jamaica

Other DJ that pioneered the genre include Grand Wizard Theodore, Afrika Bambaataa, Grandmaster Flash

Break beat = part of the song where all the instruments drop out apart from the drums

Amen break (probs the most famous instance of the breakbeat)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rvCZ-HmXtCc>

Origins

- DJs create new manipulation techniques on turntables
 - Scratching
 - Needle dropping
- First prominent rap track – Sugarhill Gang: Rappers Delight



Pictured: DJ Kool Herc

Scratching: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RuBLTypK9zo>

Rapper's Delight <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rKTUAESacQM>

Sugar Hill Records, Def Jam Records

Other sub-genres of rap include:

Gangsta rap – sex, violence, drugs, gang warfare (Snoop Dog, NWA, Wu-Tang Clan)

Grime – combines hip hop with dance music (breakbeats of UK garage) Dizzee Rascal, Wiley, Skepta

Key Artists

- N.W.A.
- Sugarhill Gang (*Rapper's Delight* – 1979)
- Run DMC (*It's Like That* – 1983)
- MC Hammer
- Tupac Shakur
- Notorious B.I.G
- Kanye West
- Dizzie Rascal (*Fix Up Look Sharp* – 2003)
- Craig David (*When The Bassline Drops* – 2015)
- Kendrick Lamar



Pictured: DJ Kool Herc

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Instruments

- Vocals (mainly male)
- Turn tables with vinyl records
- Samplers
- Synthesizers
- Drum Machines
- Some live instruments



Pictured: NWA

Vocals are rapping

Live instruments can include guitar, keyboards, drums, percussion, bass, saxophone and other horns

Production Features

- Scratching can be used to create various effects:
 - Reversing
 - Pitch Shifting
 - Filtering
- Special effects from synths
- Drum machines used instead of/alongside drum loops
- Prominent low frequency content
 - Often from kick drums
- Lo-Fi quality



Pictured: Flava Flav

Scratching can be recreated with modern technology such as samples, CDJs and Vinyl emulation software (final scratch)

Lo-fi = low fidelity (poor quality, imitating old fashioned technology)

Retriggering samples = replaying/starting a sample multiple times (DJ button on a keyboard)