

THE BEATLES

TEACHER'S NOTES



WARMER

Ask the students the following questions:

1. Do you like the Beatles?
2. Can you name the 4 members of the Beatles? *John Lennon, Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr, George Harrison*
3. Where were they from? *Liverpool*
4. How does their music compare to modern pop music?
5. How many songs of theirs can you list?

VOCABULARY

Cut out the following synonyms and get the students to match them up. Once they have done this, and understand the words, get them to play memory (turn over the words and students have to take turns turning over 2 cards until they find matching pairs). While playing memory, they need to ask each other questions using at least one of the words they have turned over.

dodge	evade
portray	depict
designate	label
acquisition	purchase
commotion	pandemonium
assailant	attacker
incarceration	imprisonment
feat	accomplishment
obsolete	out-of-date

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READING

Cut out the following points (<http://www.omg-facts.com/lists/318/17-Shocking-Facts-About-The-Beatles/1>) about the Beatles, get the students to read their text, and then share their information with the rest of the class.

The Beatles had to dodge Jelly Babies thrown at them on stage because fans heard George Harrison liked them.

Looks like Justin Bieber isn't the first to have snackfood thrown at him on stage. During a Beatles performance it was George Harrison who was hit in the eye with a Jelly Baby. It seems the Beatles didn't like having sweets thrown at them on stage, mostly due to how fans would bombard them with Jelly Babies after George said in an interview how he liked them.

Fans throwing candy became such a problem that the Beatles had to actively dodge them during performances and George ultimately wrote a letter to a fan asking her to stop. In the letter, George Harrison said "We don't like Jelly Babies, or Fruit Gums for that matter, so think how we feel standing on stage trying to dodge the stuff, before you throw some more at us.

Couldn't you eat them yourself, besides it is dangerous. I was hit in the eye once with a boiled sweet, and it's not funny!' It seems like a lot of fuss for fans to so frequently buy candy only to throw it on stage, but apparently that's just what Beatlemania did to people.

The Beatles' "Here Comes the Sun" was almost put on the Voyager Golden Records and sent out to space, but EMI refused to release the rights

The Voyager Golden Records were phonograph records which were placed in the Voyager spacecrafts launched in 1977. The purpose of the records was to portray the diversity of life and culture on Earth, designated for any intelligent life in the universe who might find them.

The Voyager spacecrafts are still out there today, both with a long journey ahead of them. Given the time it will take for them to be near other stars (about 40,000 years for one of them), some have even suggested that before then we'll have developed space travel superior in speed to the spacecrafts and that they'll be obsolete long before reaching anyone.

Carl Sagan was an astronomer working on the project back in the 70's. He had wanted "Here Comes the Sun" included on the records, and The Beatles favored the idea. Unfortunately, EMI refused to release the rights (probably because of the copyright infringing habits of aliens) and so it was not included.

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The Beatles once bought a private island with plans to all live together in peace away from screaming fans, but later sold it as they were breaking up.

In 1964, The Beatles tried to buy the 14-acre Trinity Island off the coast of the Greek island of Euboea, which, incidentally, is in the shape of a guitar. This failed, because the owners were not interested in a sale.

Lennon was still interested in buying or leasing an island to live on together, and discussed it with the other Beatles in 1967. Their friend Mardas' father was a major in the Greek secret police, and Mardas explained that through him, The Beatles would have access to Greek government connections, which would speed the acquisition of an island.

On July 22, 1967, Harrison, his wife, and Ringo Starr flew to Athens, and stayed in Mardas' parents' house overnight until Lennon, McCartney, and their family could arrive. McCartney later said that while sailing around Greek islands, everybody just sat around and took LSD.

They eventually found the 80-acre island of Lesbo, which had a small fishing village, four beaches and a large olive grove. Four small neighboring islands surrounded it, which would be for each Beatle. So, the island was bought for £95,000, but was sold for a modest profit a few months later after all four Beatles lost interest in the idea.

George Harrison of The Beatles was stabbed seven times

George Harrison was the lead guitarist of the Beatles and was one of the most famous men alive throughout part of his life. However, the Beatles' fame seems to have attracted large amounts of unwanted attention. John Lennon's death is perhaps the most famous, yet most people don't know a similar incident happened to Harrison.

In 1999, Harrison was sleeping comfortably in his home with his wife when a man named Michael Abram broke into the house. He began loudly calling Harrison's name until he came out of the bedroom. Harrison's wife Olivia called the police while Harrison went to see what the commotion was from. Almost immediately Abram attacked Harrison with a knife, stabbing him seven times.

Harrison was severely wounded with a punctured lung and head injuries, and would have been killed if his wife hadn't struck the assailant with a fire poker. After fifteen minutes Abram was arrested by the police, yet did not go to jail. Abram claimed God had told him to kill Harrison, which caused him to be labeled as insane. Harrison survived the attack and Abram was released after only 19 months of incarceration.

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The Beatles wanted to star in a film version of the Lord of the Rings. They wanted Stanley Kubrick to direct

Kubrick, of course is one of the best movie directors that ever lived. Some of his best known movies are '2001: A Space Odyssey,' 'A Clockwork Orange,' and 'The Shining.' When the film rights to The Lord of the Rings were sold to United Artists, The Beatles tried to jump on the opportunity to make a film about it. The Lord of the Rings was a huge hit with the '60s liberation movement and it makes sense that The Beatles would take interest in a project like this.

However, Stanley Kubrick had to turn them down. For him, the stories were impossible to capture on film. Indeed, the only projects based on the property were some mediocre animated movies for a long time, until Peter Jackson made the early 2000 versions. Peter Jackson later said that Tolkien had been against the idea of The Beatles being involved with such a project. Indeed, Tolkien was very protective of his IP and reportedly set up a clause that prohibited Disney from being involved in creating a movie based on his works.

"Yesterday" by the Beatles has been covered over 1,600 times.

In 1966 it held the record for most recorded song. It has been covered by Elvis Presley, Boyz II Men, Frank Sinatra, Gladys Knight, and James Brown. The song reportedly came to Paul McCartney in a dream and when he first played it, he wasn't sure if he had already heard it before. So even the writer of the song almost thought he was doing a cover.

The Beatles were rejected by Decca Records in 1962, less than a year before Beatlemania swept the UK.

After recording fifteen tracks for the now infamous Decca Audition, the Fab Four was told that "guitar groups are on their way out" and "the Beatles have no future in show business." Famous last words! Decca instead chose a group called the Tremolos, who were local and would not cost as much money. This ill-fated decision is widely considered to be one of the biggest mistakes in music history.

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The Beatles are the only artists to hold all of the Top Five spots on the Billboard charts at once.

During the week of April 4, 1964, The Beatles held twelve positions on the Billboard Hot 100 singles chart, including the top five positions. Neither feat has been matched by any artist to date.

Since you're surely wondering, here are those 12 singles and their chart positions that week:

- "Can't Buy Me Love" (1)
- "Twist and Shout" (2)
- "She Loves You" (3)
- "I Want to Hold Your Hand" (4)
- "Please Please Me" (5)
- "I Saw Her Standing There" (31)
- "From Me to You" (41)
- "Do You Want to Know a Secret" (46)
- "All My Loving" (58)
- "You Can't Do That" (65)
- "Roll Over Beethoven" (68)
- "Thank You Girl" (79)

The following week, two additional songs made the chart ("Love Me Do" and "There's a Place"), giving The Beatles FOURTEEN singles in the Hot 100! They also held the top two slots on the album charts that week.

The white Beetle in the famous Abbey Road photo got its license plate stolen countless times after the album got released

Abbey Road was the Beatles' 11th studio album and was released September 26, 1969. The album is widely agreed to be one of the Beatles' most tightly constructed albums, even though the band was hardly functioning as a group at the time. It is still considered one of the greatest albums of all time and rightfully became the Beatles' most successful album ever.

In the photo that is the famous album cover, McCartney is barefoot as the four walk across Abbey Road on the crosswalk. The white Volkswagen in the background parked on the side of the street became famous all in itself. After the album was released, the license plate LMW 281F was stolen repeatedly from the car. The car was sold at auction in 1986 for 2,530 Euro.

It was then put on display in Germany in 2001. The image of the Beatles crossing Abbey Road is iconic and the most imitated photo in recording history.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITY

Paul McCartney was knighted in 1997. Get the students to research why he was knighted and what people are normally knighted for. Are there any other famous people that they know that have been knighted? Get them to gather as much information as they can about being knighted.

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IDIOMS

Get the students to fill the missing words into the sentences, and then from the context, try and work out what each idiom means.

song, music, record, bell, drum, chime, fiddle, fine

1. What he said **rings a** _____, but I can't remember the details of what happened.
2. He told me I could _____ **in** at any time, but I didn't have anything useful to add.
3. If you want him to remember anything you have to _____ **it into his head**.
4. He's been exercising every day, so he's as **fit as a** _____.
5. It's _____ **to my ears** to hear that I passed the exam.
6. I don't want to **sound like a broken/stuck** _____, but have you cleaned your room yet?
7. I bought these awesome jeans because they were **going for a** _____.
8. Your design looks great, but I think it could do with a bit of _____ **tuning**.

After they know and understand the idioms, get the students to take turns drawing each idiom, so the other students can guess which idiom it is.

ANSWER KEY:

1. rings a bell
2. chime in
3. drum it into his head
4. fit as a fiddle
5. music to my ears
6. sound like a broken/stuck record
7. going for a song
8. fine tuning