

Celebrity Readers

FAMOUS MALE MUSICIANS

REM 474

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INTRODUCTION

Most everyone enjoys reading about celebrities. The short, high-interest, easy-to-read biographies in this book are sure to capture students' attention. Each story is accompanied by an activity page that tests reading comprehension and enhances following-directions skills. Activity pages include fact-based questions, crossword puzzles, true-false/fact-opinion questions, fill-in-the-blanks, and more. A related research project for each story may require the use of a dictionary, an almanac, encyclopedia, atlas, or the Internet. An answer key is provided.

Interest level for this book is grades 3-12. Reading level is grades 3-5.

Additional Activity:

Since the events in the lives of celebrities are constantly changing, ask students to become reporters and write a "celebrity update," adding any new information that they can find on a particular celebrity. A template for this is provided on page 29. Hold a guided class discussion in which the students share their information and talk about their findings.

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THE BEATLES

“Beatlemania” began in 1963. Fans went crazy whenever they saw the rock and pop group the Beatles. During concerts, girls screamed so loudly that the music couldn’t be heard. It wasn’t long before Beatlemania spread all over the world.

The Beatles hailed from England. The men that made up the popular group came together in 1962. They were John Lennon, Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr, and George Harrison.

The Beatles were trendsetters. Their music gave new meaning to rock music. The Beatles drew on all types of music, instruments, and sounds when writing their songs. The Beatles’ appearance also started new trends. People lined up to have their hair cut in “the mop.”

In 1963, the Beatles released their first album. The song “From Me to You” became their first #1 song. Their songs soon flooded the airwaves in the United Kingdom. The Beatles didn’t become popular in the United States until later in 1963. By 1964, “Beatlemania” had hit the U.S. in full force.

The Beatles stayed together until 1970. During that time, they released 12 albums and 24 singles in the UK. *Please Please Me*, *With the Beatles*, and *A Hard Day’s*



Night were #1 for over 20 weeks. Songs like “All You Need is Love,” “Hey Jude,” “Let It Be,” and “Yellow Submarine” topped the charts. The Beatles also made five films. It’s easy to see why the Beatles are #1 on the *Rolling Stone* list of 100 Greatest Artists of All Time!

Abbey Road was the last album the Beatles recorded before they broke up. Each member went on to have a successful solo career. The Beatles still live on, though. In 1988, the group was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Their songs are still popular. A video game, called *The Beatles: Rock Band*, has even been made! The Beatles changed the music world forever.

Name _____

THE BEATLES

Match the clues to the words in the box. Write the answers on the lines.

England	<i>Abbey Road</i>	"From Me to You"	<i>Rolling Stone</i>
four	rock and roll	"the mop"	1964

1. the year "Beatlemania" hit the U.S. in full force _____
2. where the Beatles were from _____
3. the Beatles' first #1 song _____
4. the number of men in the Beatles _____
5. the last album the Beatles recorded before breaking up _____
6. the magazine that named the Beatles the #1 artist of all time _____
7. the type of music the Beatles gave new meaning to _____
8. the name of the hairstyle the Beatles wore _____

Research: The Beatles' music is said to be inspired by a type of music called skiffle. Find *skiffle* in an encyclopedia. What is it? When did it first become popular?

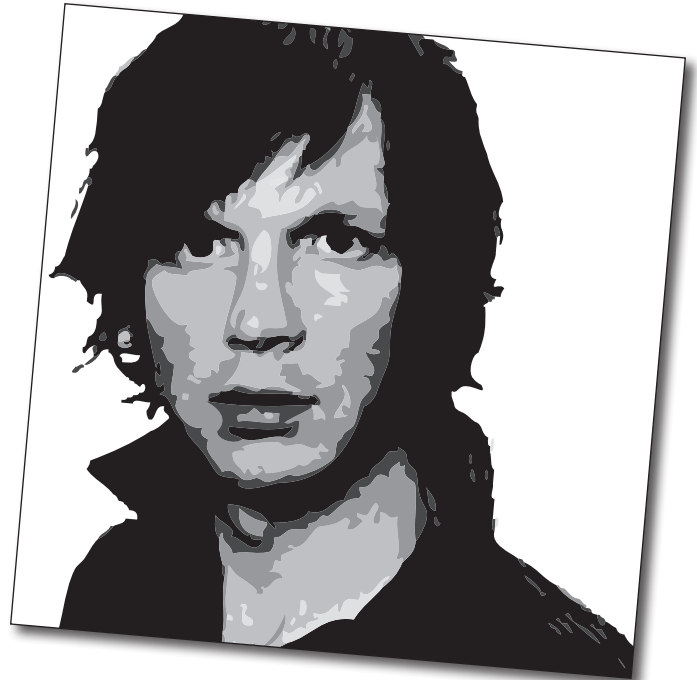


Some of his concerts have been called chaotic, even confusing. His dance moves are erratic. At times, he sings in a high-pitched voice. Despite this, fans still turn out in droves to see alternative rock musician Beck perform.

Beck was born on July 8, 1970, in Los Angeles. Beck's family is into the arts. His dad was a musician. His grandfather was an artist. His mother was part of The Factory in New York City. This was a studio owned by artist Andy Warhol. Artists went there to hang out. Beck himself grew up around the art scene in Los Angeles. The things he saw and heard have had a big influence on his music.

In 1994, Beck released a song called "Loser." At the time, Beck was performing in coffeehouses and clubs. "Loser" was a song he made up to try to get the audience's attention. He never dreamed that this would be the song that shot him to stardom.

In 1996, Beck released his second album. It was called *Odelay*. It went double platinum. It earned him a Grammy for Best Alternative Music Album. The songs "Where It's At" and "New Pollution" were played all over the airwaves. Beck won another Grammy in 1999. It was for Best



Alternative Rock Performance on the album *Mutations*.

Beck's style of music is influenced by a lot of music types. You can hear everything from '30s folk music to hip-hop to blues to rock. For a long time, Beck played almost all of the instruments on his songs. Now he uses a band.

Beck's music continues to dazzle fans. In 2007, he was nominated for another Grammy. It was for the song "Timebomb." With his unique style, Beck is sure to be around for years to come!

Name _____

BECK

Complete the sentences with words from the story.

1. Beck's dance moves are _____.
2. Beck was born on July 8, 1970, in _____, California.
3. Beck's _____ was part of The Factory in New York City.
4. Beck grew up around the _____ scene in Los Angeles.
5. "_____ " was the song that shot Beck to stardom.
6. Beck released his second album in _____.
7. Beck won a Grammy for Best Alternative Performance for the album _____.
8. You can hear everything from '30s _____ to hip-hop to blues to rock in Beck's music.
9. Beck used to play all of the _____ in his songs.
10. "Timebomb" was nominated for a Grammy in _____.

Research: Find *Andy Warhol* in an encyclopedia. Who was he? What art movement did he lead?