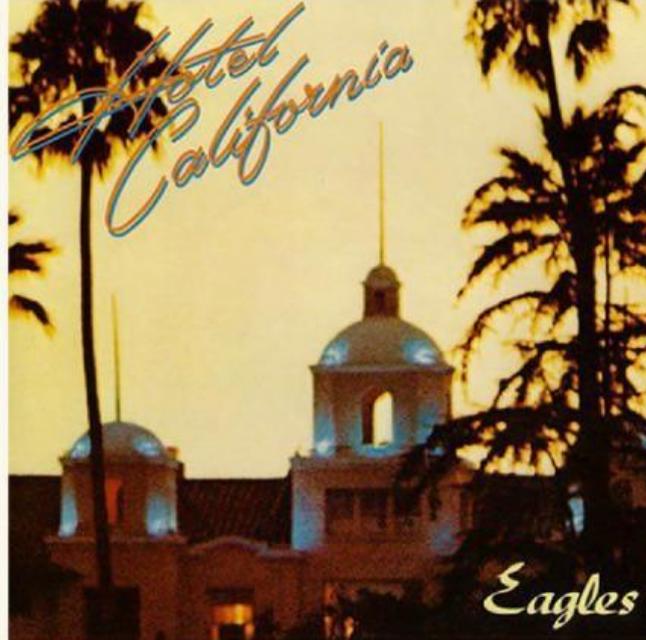


HOTEL CALIFORNIA

PRE-LISTENING ACTIVITIES

1. Look at the album cover (which has the same name as the song); what vibes do you get from it? Why?



2. The song uses evocative, sensory language. Look at the following words and match them to their correct meaning.

SHIMMERING

HIGHWAY

PASSAGE

MISSION BELL

SPIRIT

A LONG, NARROW WAY WITH WALLS ON EACH SIDE (LIKE A CORRIDOR).

A BELL USED IN A CHURCH TO CALL PEOPLE TO PRAYER.

SHINING WITH A SOFT, SLIGHTLY WAVING LIGHT.

A STRONG ALCOHOLIC DRINK (OR A GHOST/SOUL).

A MAIN ROAD, ESPECIALLY ONE CONNECTING MAJOR TOWNS OR CITIES.

3. Look at the opening lines... Use your imagination and complete them.

- "On a [adjective] desert highway, cool [noun] in my hair..."
- "Warm [noun] of colitas , rising up through the [noun]"
- "Up ahead in the distance, I saw a shimmering [noun]"

4. Imagine you are traveling and you find a beautiful hotel. It has everything you want (food, music, luxury), but once you enter, you are told you can never leave. Would you stay? Why or why not?



WHILE-LISTENING

A. COMPLETE

On a desert highway
..... wind in my hair
Warm of colitas
Rising up through the
Up ahead in the
I saw a shimmering
My head grew heavy and my sight grew dim
I had to stop for the

B. COMPLETE USING THE WORDS BELOW

MYSELF - WAY - HELL - CORRIDOR - HEAVEN

There she stood in the doorway
I heard the mission bell
And I was thinking to
This could be or this could be
Then she lit up a candle
And she showed me the
There were voices down the
I thought I heard them say

C. ENJOY!

Welcome to the Hotel California
Such a lovely place (such a lovely place)
Such a lovely face
Plenty of room at the Hotel California
Any time of year (any time of year)
You can find it here

D. CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

Her is Tiffany-twisted
She got the Mercedes-Benz, uh
She got a lot of pretty, pretty
That she calls friends
How they danced in the courtyard
Sweet summer
Some dance to remember
Some dance to

E. MATCH THE HALVES

So I called
"Please bring
He said, "We haven't had
And still those voices
Wake you up in
Just to hear

them say
are calling from far away
up the captain
that spirit here since 1969"
the middle of the night
me my wine"

F. ENJOY

Welcome to the Hotel California
Such a lovely place (such a lovely place)
Such a lovely face
They're livin' it up at the Hotel California
What a nice surprise (what a nice surprise)
Bring your alibis

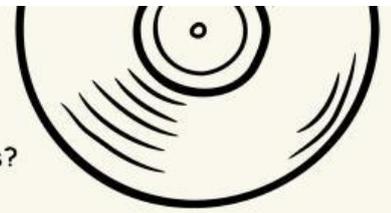
G. COMPLETE

Mirrors on the ceiling
The pink champagne on i.....
And she said, "We are all just p..... here
Of our own device"
And in the master's c.....
They gathered for the f.....
They stab it with their steely knives
But they just can't kill the b.....

H. ORDER THE LINES

..... "We are programmed to receive
..... Last thing I remember
..... To the place I was before
..... You can check out any time you like
..... I was running for the door
..... I had to find the passage back
..... But you can never leave"
..... "Relax, " said the night man

POST-LISTENING ACTIVITIES



1. Before analysing the song, go back to the lyrics. Are there any new words/phrases? Let's discuss their meaning!
2. Read the following and do the activities.

RELEASED IN 1976 BY THE EAGLES, "HOTEL CALIFORNIA" IS ONE OF THE MOST DEBATED AND ANALYZED SONGS IN ROCK HISTORY. WHILE IT SOUNDS LIKE A LITERAL STORY ABOUT A WEARY TRAVELER TRAPPED IN A CREEPY HOTEL, THE BAND MEMBERS HAVE CLARIFIED OVER THE YEARS THAT IT IS A COMPLEX ALLEGORY. DON HENLEY AND GLENN FREY HAVE DESCRIBED THE SONG AS THEIR "INTERPRETATION OF THE HIGH LIFE IN LOS ANGELES." IT SERVES AS A CRITIQUE OF THE HEDONISM, EXCESS, AND SELF-DESTRUCTION PREVALENT IN THE 1970S AMERICAN CULTURE AND THE MUSIC INDUSTRY.



A. Think of the song as an iceberg. Above the water, you have what the narrator sees and hears; below it what those things actually represent. Considering this, complete the table.

LITERAL MEANING	DEEPER MEANING
HOTEL	A beautiful but dangerous lifestyle or habit.

B. Have you heard of a "GILDED CAGE"? Check the concept on the internet and answer the questions.

- Does the traveler want to leave at the beginning? Why does that change?
- In the song, they "stab it with their steely knives, but they just can't kill the beast." Why do you think they can't kill it?
- Is it better to be "free" and poor, or "trapped" and rich?

C. The modern HOTEL CALIFORNIA: "What is a 'Hotel California' in the world today? (e.g., Social Media, Fame, Video Games, Shopping). Why is it easy to enter but hard to leave?"

