Music — Popular music

FACT: **The first CD ever made was by the Swedish pop group Abba in 1982.**

There are a lot of different kinds of music. To talk about them, we can look at the different instruments they use, but we also need to understand some of the different parts of a piece of music.

The **melody** is the tune, or the line of notes that you sing in a song. It is usually the easiest part to remember.

The **tempo** is the speed of the music. If you play music more quickly or more slowly, it changes how the music sounds.

The **harmony** is behind the melody. It changes how the music feels.

1 Match the words with photos a–e. Read and check.

rock rap jazz
opera beatbox



Popular music – then and now

The name **pop** music comes from popular music, but do you know what was popular over 200 years ago? Or 80 years ago? Here are some of the different styles of music.

Opera is a kind of classical music. It's 400 years old but was very popular 200 years ago. An opera is a musical play with an orchestra. The singers wear costumes and tell a story, so there are a lot of different melodies and tempos.

Jazz music combines music from North America and Africa, and many styles have developed since people started playing jazz 100 years ago. One of the most important things in jazz is improvisation. This means that musicians invent the music while they're playing it.

When we say pop music now, we think of short songs with a strong rhythm and a melody which is easy to remember. **Rock** music is a kind of pop music which was first very popular in the 1960s and 1970s. The singer sings the melody and electric and bass guitars give the harmonies. The drums and bass guitars are important for the rhythm.

Rap started over 20 years ago. Rappers sing or say their rhymes to an electronic rhythm. The melody isn't complicated and there isn't much harmony.

Beatbox is a new kind of singing. Beatboxers use their mouths and bodies to copy drums and other musical sounds. It's like rap, but there are more sounds than words. Have you tried it?

2 13 CD3 Listen and say 'yes' or 'no'.

1. Yes - No
2. Yes - No
3. Yes - No
4. Yes - No
5. Yes - No
6. Yes - No

LIVEWORKSHEETS