1 BAT MONOGRAPHIC

THE BEATLES - STILL GOING STRONG

Read:



The Beatles, as young musicians in the 1960s

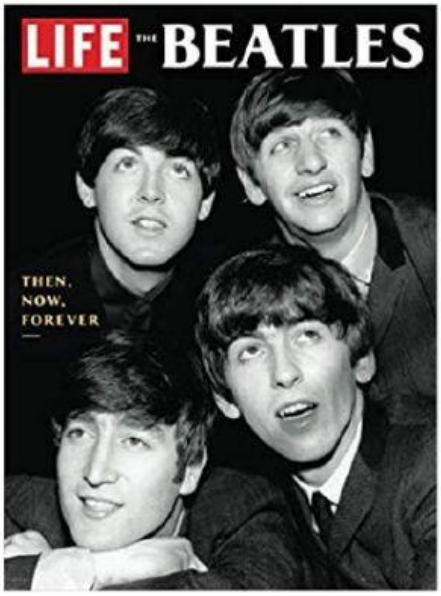
- In 1996, six million Beatles albums were sold during the year. That would be a good score for a functioning band or group; but for a group that last played together in 1969, it was incredible.
- In 2013, a "new" Beatles album, *On air live at the BBC - part 2*, was the group's 31st top ten album in the USA.
- In 2014, Hollywood made a big new documentary film about the Beatles.... almost 50 years after they broke up.
- In 2019, the Beatles' *Abbey Road* was (again) the top-selling vinyl album in the USA, with 246,000 sales.
- In November 2021, Disney screens a new documentary about the Beatles, called *Get Back*. The three-part documentary is about the Beatles' final album, *Let It Be,* made in 1970
- In Britain, a study recently showed that the Beatles are still one of the most popular groups with people over 15 years old; and they are still popular with teenagers too.

What albums by the Beatles have been mentioned in the previous paragraphs? Write their names in order of appearance, separated by a comma+space.



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Read:



So why did the Beatles become so popular in the sixties, and why are they still so popular today?

They became popular because they caught the spirit of a generation. Sixties teenagers were very different from fifties teenagers; they wanted to change things, and escape from the rather dull fifties. The Beatles came along, offering a new type of music, with new instruments (electric guitars). They were not the only group, of course; but they were the best, and considered the most original. At first, they copied rock 'n' roll songs from America. These were not well-known in England at the time, but it was easy to get rock 'n' roll records in Liverpool, a busy port city at the time. Sailors brought the most popular records from America, and these became popular with young musicians in Liverpool. Then the Beatles began writing their own songs - and people liked them.

When they became popular, they did not stop doing new things; instead, they pushed back the frontiers of pop/rock music in all directions. And where they went, others followed.

Today people are still following them; and probably they will continue following for a long time to come.



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Among more recent pop groups, many big names - such as Oasis, Blur or Foo Fighters - owe a lot to the Beatles, and they say so. In their album *the Masterplan,* Oasis did a new version of the Beatles' song *I am the Walrus*.

However, there are also dozens of bands all over the world which do nothing but copy the Beatles. There is a band in England called *The Bootleg Beatles*, a band in America called *The Fab Four*, a Norwegian band called *Det Betales,* and even a band called *Museum* in Kazakhstan; and there are many more too.

Write the names of the 4 bands which copy the Beatles, according to the information given. Separate them with a comma+space.

Read:

The Bootleg Beatles now do over 100 shows a year, and they always bring in big audiences. Once, they filled the 10,000 seat Budokan stadium in Japan.

There are also dozens of Beatles conventions and Beatles weekends every year, in different parts of the world. The annual BeatleFest in America (founded in 1974) takes place twice each year, and attracts up to 20,000 fans.

Web search. The BeatleFest (now called 'The Fest For Beatles' Fans'), is celebrated in two cities. Which ones? (Join them with 'and')

Read:

In Britain, the Beatles are still a big tourist attraction. Thousands of people go to Liverpool every year, to see where it all began. In Liverpool, they can visit the Beatles' museum, take a "Beatles' Tour" of the city (seeing places like Penny Lane), or visit the house where Paul MacCartney lived as a teenager.

Web search. In Liverpool, you can find the statue of a character which gives name to one of their songs. What is the name of this character (and song?)



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