

Year 7 - Reggae Music Knowledge Organiser

Musical Context



Reggae Music comes from the Caribbean Island of Jamaica.



It was developed in the 1960's.

Common Song Themes:

Social Issues – The social issues surrounding Jamaica (poverty/opportunities etc.)

Politics – The struggle against white oppression (called Babylon) and references to slavery (History)

Spiritual – Rastafarianism (spiritual)/ returning to homeland (Africa)

Peace and Love – A common theme of 1960's pop music. Bob Marley always tried to spread peace and love through his music.

Key Musicians

Bob Marley

Famous songs include One Love, Three Little Birds and Buffalo Soldier.



Jimmy Cliff

Famous songs include I Can See Clearly Now, You Can Get It If You Really Want, and The Harder They Come.



Gregory Isaacs

Famous songs include Cool Down The Pace, Stranger In Town and Love Is Overdue.



Musical Conventions

Repetitive

Slow tempo

4/4 time signature

Verse – Chorus structure

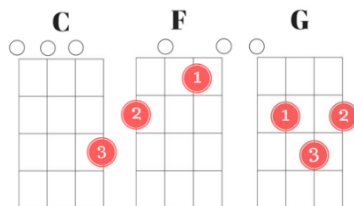
Lyrics have a strong message.

Drum beat accents beats 2 & 4



Simple chord progressions

Ukulele Chords



Off-beat chords

Count	1	&	2	&	3	&	4	&
Play		X		X		X		X

Syncopated rhythms in the melody



Repeating bass line (riff)



Count	1	&	2	&	3	&	4	&
Chords		X		X		X		X
Bass line	X	X	X		X	X	X	

Useful Links

Check out some great Reggae music using these links:

Jimmy Cliff - Special
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7t_56xBaLwY

Bob Marley – Could You Be Loved
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g3t6YDnGXAc>

Etana is a very successful modern female Reggae artist:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8OIK2Xg4kr8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y6OummuSak>

Test Yourself

- What themes do lyrics to Reggae songs usually have?
- Who are some famous Reggae artists?
- What decade did Reggae music develop?
- What is the most famous feature of Reggae rhythms?
- What is the structure of a typical Reggae song?
- How can you describe the tempo of a Reggae song?

Song Structure

Three Little Birds - Bob Marley Chord Structure

Chorus

C x8 F x4 C x4 Repeat this each time

Verse

C x4 G x4 C x4 F x4

C x4 G x4 F x4 C x4



Notation - Pitch



Every Green Bus Drives Fast



'FACE' in the space