



THE BIRTH OF HIP-HOP

You Are There

This book discusses how hip-hop culture first became popular in New York City. Imagine you were in the city when hip-hop graffiti was first seen on the streets. How did people react to the graffiti? How did the graffiti express and reflect hip-hop culture?





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Another View

This book talks about the lack of public recognition and awards for hip-hop artists. As you know, every source is different. Ask a librarian or another adult to help you find articles about this subject. Write a short essay comparing and contrasting the new source's point of view with that of this book's authors. What is the point of view of each source? How are they similar and why? How are they different and why?





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Dig Deeper

After reading this book, what questions do you still have about the hip-hop movement? With an adult's help, find a few reliable sources that can help you answer your questions. Write a paragraph about what you learned.





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Say What?

Studying the history of a movement can mean learning a lot of new vocabulary. Find five words in this book that you had never seen before. Use a dictionary to find out what they mean. Then write the meanings in your own words, and use each word in a new sentence.





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Tell the Tale

Chapter One of this book describes the 1973 party in the Bronx that marked the beginning of hip-hop. Imagine that you had attended this party. Write 200 words about your experience. How did the audience react to DJ Kool Herc's music?





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Discussion Questions

- How did the different aspects of the hip-hop movement contribute to its popularity?
- Why do many people associate hip-hop with violence? How are hip-hop artists combatting this stereotype?
- Many black hip-hop artists grew up in low-income neighborhoods with high crime rates. How do these experiences influence their music?





- How is misogyny still common in hip-hop and rap music? In what ways are female artists fighting against misogyny and sexism in the industry?
- What is hip-hop's legacy today? What do you think its legacy will be in the future?
- How do you think the history of the hip-hop movement could be taught in schools and communities today?

