

YEAR 8 MUSIC: SONGS OF FREEDOM

KEY STYLISTIC FEATURES OF REGGAE MUSIC

Off-beat	Guitar & Piano emphasise chords on beats 2 & 4 or on the second weaker quaver e.g. 1+ 2+. This is called the chop .
Organ Shuffle	Left hand plays offbeat quavers whilst the right hand plays the offbeat chop .
Staccato	When notes are played short and detached
Riff	A repeated musical pattern.
Bass Riff	A repeated musical pattern which forms the bass line . Usually played on bass guitar .
Chord Sequence	Often quite simple, repeated chord patterns used throughout a song.
Rim Shot	Where the drum stick hits the rim and the skin of the snare drum simultaneously.
Political Lyrics	Songs often critical of politics and raise awareness of social issues such as racism and poverty
Horn Stabs	Short interjecting melodies played by the 'horn section'

REGGAE INSTRUMENTATION

Lead Vocals – Lead singer (always specify whether a male or female voice).

Backing Vocals – often 2 or 3 backing singers would be in the band. They often sing responses to the lead vocal line and sometimes add harmonies.

Guitar – electric guitar, often quite thin sounding playing 'chop' chords

Piano – often doubling the chop chords played on guitar. Played staccato.

Organ – plays the 'Bubble' – quite a tricky part to master. The 'Hammond' organ was popular with artists in the 1970s.

Bass Guitar – played with a heavy and deep sound by boosting the low frequencies.

Horn Section – usually consisting of trumpet, saxophone & trombone. They often play introductions and 'stabs'.

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



THE DEVELOPMENT OF REGGAE & DUB

MENTO:

- Jamaican folk music popular in the **1950s**
- Used guitar, banjo & drums
- Featured lots of verses (Strophic Form)
- Light-hearted lyrics of every day life

SKA:

- Fast dance music that emerged in the **late 1950s/early 1960s**
- Fuses American Rhythm & Blues with Mento rhythms
- Uses electric guitars and jazzy horn sections (trumpets, saxophones & trombone)
- Uses offbeat jumpy rhythms
- Has lyrics about local issues

ROCK STEADY:

- Dance music that emerged in the **mid-1960s**
- Rhythms more relaxed, and slower tempos than Ska
- Loud bass guitar playing steady 4/4 beat
- Political themes in lyrics

REGGAE:

- Slower than Ska and emerged in the **mid-late 1960s**
- Amplified bass guitar riffs
- Associated with Rastafarianism
- Characteristic rhythm in 4/4 with missing beat emphasis
- Repeated off beat quavers
- Verse & Chorus form

DUB:

- Popular in the **1970s**
- Instrumental remixes of existing reggae tracks
- Most of the vocals would be removed and the Drum and bass parts emphasised
- Effects such as echo delay and reverb added.
- Early form of popular electronic music.
- Linked with **sound system culture** where **MCs** (Master of Ceremonies) would **toast** (speak) over the instrumental music

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REGGAE DRUM GROOVES

One Drop

Listening
example: 'One
Drop' - Bob
Marley

The "one drop" is the most recognizable reggae beat for drum kit. It's emphasis is on beat 3 with a heavy kick drum. The upbeat accents on hi-hat are another important feature of the reggae groove. This element of the drum beat supports the other rhythm section instruments.



Stepper

Listening
example:
'Exodus- Bob
Marley

This is the "four on the floor" of reggae drum beats. The kick drum is on all four downbeats in each measure, leaving lots of opportunity to vary the rhythms that dance on top via the snare, toms, cymbals, and percussion.



Rocker

Listening
example:
'Night Nurse' -
Gregory Issacs

The "rockers" reggae beat is the money beat (the first groove most drummers learn to play). The kick drum is on 1 and 3, while the snare is on beats 2 and 4.



WHAT'S THIS GOT TO DO WITH HIPHOP?

- In the 1970s Jamaican Sound System culture became popular in New York
- New York at the time had very high levels of poverty, unemployment, crime (including gangs) and unrest
- The MC **toasting** over the dub track eventually developed into what we would today recognise as Rap and HipHop.
- Graffiti Art and B-Boys dancing to the music became key parts of HipHop culture
- As rap progressed, rappers moved from simple rhymes to more complex lyrical patterns, including poetic techniques like internal rhyming or assonance. Rakim and Big Daddy Kane were some of the first artists to use this more lyrical style, which paved the way for global superstars like Tupac, Biggie Smalls, Nas and Jay-Z.

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CHORDS (TRIADS)

CHORDS IN THE KEY OF C MAJOR

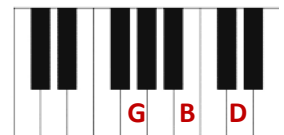
C



F



G



INVERTED* CHORDS IN THE KEY OF C MAJOR

C



F



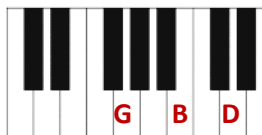
G



* the notes have been rearranged to make them easier to play

CHORDS IN THE KEY OF G MAJOR

G



C



D



INVERTED* CHORDS IN THE KEY OF G MAJOR

G



C



D

