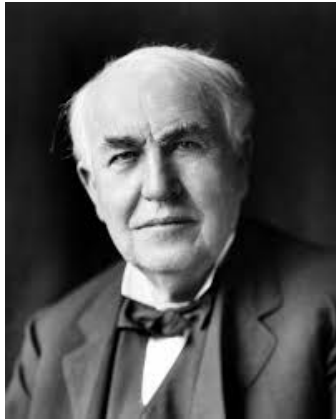


Music History Grade 6

The Radio

Before the late 1800s, there were no radios, record players, mp3s, TVs, CDs, video games, internet or computers!! If you wanted to hear music, you had to go to a concert or play music yourself!

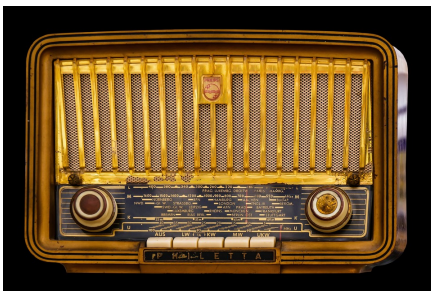


Then, in 1877, the great inventor Thomas Edison invented the phonograph, which was the beginning of the record player. Also, in 1894, Mr. Marconi built the first real radio. All of a sudden, people could turn a button and hear music any time they wanted – for the first time in history!



The radio works by emitting radio waves in the air. These waves are caught by antennas on the radio and translated back into sound. Many people contributed to the beginning of the radio. The main inventors were Mr. Hertz, Mr. Tesla and Mr. Marconi.

In 1929, after World War I, the whole world was plunged into a Great Depression. People lost their jobs, had no money, and could barely find food to feed their families. The Great Depression lasted from about 1929 to 1941. It was a very difficult time. People were so hungry and poor that it was almost impossible for them to be joyful.



One of the only things that didn't cost any money was turning on the radio. The music on the radio really helped people keep going. They listened to songs like: "Life is Just a Bowl of Cherries", "We're in the Money", "Brother Can You Spare a Dime" and "Ain't We Got Fun!". This was also the time that the styles of music called Jazz and Swing became very popular.

During World War II (1939-1945), families were separated because so many men went to war. People were very worried about their loved ones. By 1940, 80% of people in



North America had radios. They listened to songs by Frank Sinatra (Crooner ballads), Ella Fitzgerald (Jazz), and Bing Crosby (He's the guy that sings "White Christmas"!). Jazz and Swing were still very popular. Their up-beat styles really helped people feel better and forget about their troubles.

In the late 1940s and early 1950s, Rock and Roll was born.

By this time, millions of people around the world listened to the radio and heard Rock and Roll for the first time. It became so popular that it even turned the musicians into major stars! One of the first true Rock and Roll stars was Elvis Presley!

Elvis had many number one hits: Heartbreak Hotel, Blue Suede Shoes, Love me Tender, Jailhouse Rock, Hound Dog, and many more!



Also during that time, electric guitars, microphones, drum sets, and records became very popular. On the radio, you had to wait until the radio played your favorite song to hear it, but now you could buy a record of your favorite song and listen to it whenever you wanted! On the radio, however, it was still free to listen to music.

In England in 1960, the band the Beatles was formed. Its members were: Paul McCartney, John Lennon, George Harrison, and Ringo Starr. In part because of the radio, they had so many number one hits that they are in the Guinness Book of World Records! Here are a few: All you need is love, Yellow Submarine, Blackbird, Come together, Eleanor Rigby, A Hard Day's Night, Here comes the sun, Lady Madonna, Love me do, Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds, Penny Lane, Strawberry Fields, to name only a few.



Of course, we still listen to the radio today. It has been and continues to be an important influence in our lives.

(source: Wikipedia)

Name: _____ Class: _____

The History of the Radio.



1. In 1801, if you wanted to listen to music, what would you have to do? _____

2. Who were the 3 inventors of the radio?

3. What year was the radio invented? _____
4. How does a radio work? _____

5. How did the radio contribute to the lives of people during the Great Depression?

6. How did the radio contribute to the lives of people during World War 2?

7. What styles of music did the radio help to popularize during the Great Depression and World War 2? _____
8. What happened in the late 1940s and early 1950s? _____

9. Who was the first major Rock and Roll star? _____

10. During the 50s, records became very popular because once you bought them, you could listen to your favorite songs any time you wanted. Why was the radio still popular then? _____

11. Do you ever listen to the radio? _____ If so, when? _____

12. Can you imagine a world without radios, records, mp3s, CDs, TV, video games, the internet or computers? _____ What do you think life would be like?

