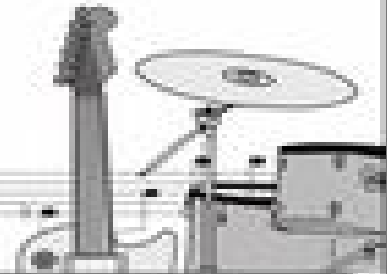


African-Americans in Pop Music:

ROCK AND ROLL



Rock and roll began in the American south, a combination of the many styles of music that existed in the country at the time. Up until the late 1940s, different cultures in America had created their own styles of music, including blues, jazz, folk, country and swing. Around that time, musicians began to combine the different styles of music, and soon they came together to resemble what we now consider rock and roll. The earliest rock songs are mainly influenced by country and blues.

With more and more families enjoying new prosperity after World War II, their teenage children had free time and money to spend. They began attending local dances and concerts where they heard this new style of music played, and soon began spending their money on records. Disc jockeys began to notice the popularity of the music and began playing it on their radio stations, pushing it into the mainstream.

Many of the most popular rock and roll hits were blues songs that had been written by African-American songwriters, but were re-recorded by white artists. However, many African-Americans broke through into the mainstream, including legendary names like Chuck Berry, Fats Domino, Bo Diddley and Little Richard. The popularity of rock and roll was an important step toward integration, as people of all races came together to both make and enjoy the music.

WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the letters to form the word that completes the sentence.

1. The appeal of rock and roll across racial lines reflected, and contributed to, the _____ Movement. LNVG GSRHT
2. Rock and roll was made up of two types of music. Rockabilly, influenced by country music, was popularized by white musicians like _____. Rock, built on the beats of rhythm & blues, was the type made mostly by African-American musicians like Little Richard. VSELI DEYSPRL
3. Some of those first rock and roll hits by white musicians were _____ or rewrites of earlier black rhythm-and-blues or blues songs. RSOVCE

