

HISTORY. READING. MATH. AND MORE...

SCHOOL JUST WENT BEAST MODE

EDUCATE. ENTERTAIN. EMPOWER!

HIP HOP: THEN TO NOW CONTEXT CLUES ACTIVITY



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NAME 1

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HIP HOP: THEN TO NOW CONTEXT CLUES

Directions: Context clues are words, information, or hints about what something is. They help us understand what we do not know. Read the lyrics on pages 3 – 5 while listening to the song. Next, read the questions below and use the **context clues in bold** to understand the underlined words. Reread the lyrics if necessary to better understand each word.

1) Using the **words in bold** as context clues, circle the best definition below for the word "hype" in the following sentences.

"... **switching back and forth between songs**. He got the crowd hype."

- A) calm B) bored C) excited D) out

2) Using the **words in bold** as context clues, circle the best definition below for the word "MCs" in the following sentence.

"... MCs **on the microphones** got your mind blown with **lyrics**...."

- A) dancers B) adults C) youth D) rappers

3) Using the **words in bold** as context clues, circle the best definition below for the word "funds" in the following sentences.

"**Empty wallets** meant closed doors... no funds for singing lessons...."

- A) time B) money C) energy D) place

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NAME 2



CONTEXT CLUES CONTINUED

4) Using the **words in bold** as context clues, circle the best definition below for the word "urban" in the following sentences.

"I'm the spirit of the urban youth... those who grew up poor **in the city**....

- A) country B) growing C) inner-city D) poor

5) "Breaks" is a 1970's slang word from the Bronx. Use the **words in bold** as context clues then circle the best definition below for the word "breaks."

"**Empty wallets** meant closed doors... **poor in the city** - inner-city breaks."

- A) buildings B) jobs C) schools D) problems

6) Using the **words in bold** as context clues, circle the best definition below for the word "catastrophe" in the following sentences.

"History remembers the Bronx as a catastrophe. **Hopeless** landlords..."

- A) disaster B) challenge C) relief D) victory

7) Using the **words in bold** as context clues, circle the best definition below for the word "landlords" in the following sentence.

"Hopeless landlords burned down **their own** buildings."

- A) workers B) builders C) adults D) owners

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HIP HOP: THEN TO NOW LYRICS - PART 1

(Verse 1A)

The name is Hip Hop. In 1973, I was born.
At block parties, I started making noise in the Bronx,
New York City. That's where I'm from.
I came alive when the music on the block came on.
Extending the drum breaks is how it all began -
DJ Kool Herc switching back and forth between songs.
He got the crowd hype. He made the place hop.
That's the start of Hip Hop, how I came up.

(Verse 1B)

I was first called by that name in 1974.
DJ Starski used "Hip Hop" to refer to the culture:
the bboys and bgirls - dancers on the block,
head spinning and pop lockin' when the beat dropped,
MCs on the microphones got your mind blown with
lyrics so sick that the doctors can't cure it,
beats so ill that you have to call the medic,
DJs with skills so real that they mix the track with truth in it.

(Verse 1C)

I started as a way for kids to pass the time.
They couldn't get into discos, so they had to find
another way to express themselves.
Empty wallets meant closed doors. They found something else.
Ballet was breaking. DJs were musicians.
No funds for singing lessons, so they started MCing.
The message of the youth, Grandmaster Flash put it best.
"We matter. We stand for something,"
said the DJ that came up on my path.

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HIP HOP: THEN TO NOW LYRICS - PART 2

(Chorus)

I'm the spirit of the urban youth:
the voice and mind of those who grew up poor in the city -
inner-city breaks. I spoke out for those in the slums.
They had something to say. I helped them speak to their peers.
I appeared for the youth that made something out of nothing.
I gave them something to do. Kids needed to celebrate.
They created their own art, expressing themselves.
Hip Hop comes from the heart!

(Verse 2A)

There was a great divide between kid and adult culture.
That's why I started on street corners and recreational centers.
Kids in worn-out sneakers could kick it there.
No need for fancy - Hip Hop culture didn't care.
Kids had their own parties with bboy moves while
DJs on turntables played the beat smooth.
A positive form of competitive energy
compared to the gangs that ran the 1960s.

(Verse 2B)

By the mid-1970s, the gangs were fading,
breaking apart while Hip Hop was brewing.
History remembers the Bronx as a catastrophe.
Hopeless landlords burned down their own buildings.
Unemployment was everywhere. People were waiting in line
just to get a job. Poverty was sky-high.
But the kids kickin' it with me saw it way different.
They invented masterpieces with their situation.

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HIP HOP: THEN TO NOW LYRICS - PART 3

(Chorus)

(Verse 3A)

Now, if you don't know much about me,
let me spit the facts straight.

The term "rap music" was created in 1978.

In 1979, the rap group, Sugar Hill Gang,
had the first major success with a rap song.

It was a hit in the U.S. In 1986, rock music and I
first collaborated thanks to Run-DMC and Aerosmith.

In 1989, the first Grammy Award for Best Rap Performance
went to Will Smith then known as the Fresh Prince.

(Verse 3B)

In 1993, the hip-hop group, Arrested Development,
was the first to win the Grammy for Best New Artist.

In 1999, the Album of the Year was
"The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill," the first rap album to win.

In 2007, the first rappers inducted into Rock and Roll's
Hall of Fame were Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five.

In 2018, I kept knocking down new doors.

The first rapper to win a Pulitzer Prize for Music
was Kendrick Lamar.

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NAME 6

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***ANSWER KEY* CONTEXT CLUES**

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***ANSWER KEY* CONTEXT CLUES CONTINUED**

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"I'm the spirit of the urban youth... those who grew up poor **in the city**....

- A) country B) growing C) inner-city D) poor

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