

The Fab Four: The Beatles!



More than simply an English rock band, The Beatles were a phenomenon which changed forever the life and culture of thousands of youth all over the planet!

Formed in Liverpool in 1960, their line-up was: John Lennon (rhythm guitar, vocals), Paul McCartney (bass guitar, vocals), George Harrison (lead guitar, vocals) and Ringo Starr (drums, vocals).

Beatlemania

Their popularity was enormous, and people even invented a word to describe it: "Beatlemania". Not only everybody sang their songs and loved them, but people started dressing up, cutting their hair and mimicking The Beatles. People also looked at them as the embodiment of ideals, freedom and youth. The band definitely influenced the social and cultural revolution of the 1960s.

The Beatles first reached success in late 1962 with their hit, "Love Me Do". Some of their following albums, such as *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*, *Abbey Road*, *Yellow Submarine* and *The White Album* transformed them in a living legend.

The band splits up

But as years passed by and their popularity increased, internal creative pressures increased dramatically, and the creative duo McCartney-Lennon, started to disagree practically... on everything. Critics and fans believe that the love affair between Lennon and Yoko Ono was responsible for the final quarrel inside the band, and their subsequent breakup in 1970.

After the split, each ex-Beatle found success in an independent musical career. Today, only McCartney and Starr remain active, because John was killed by a madman on December, 8th 1980, in New York City, while George died in 2001.

During their career, the Beatles have sold more albums in the US than any other artist; they received 7 Grammy Awards and Queen Elizabeth II even appointed them *Members of the Order of the British Empire*.

In 1988 The Beatles were admitted to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

Now answer these questions:

1. Who were the Fab Four?
2. What was Beatlemania?
3. What did young people think of The Beatles during 1960s?
4. What is *Love me do*? When did it become popular?
5. Who was Yoko Ono and what was her role in the band?
6. What do Beatles Fans think about her?
7. Who did compose most of The Beatles' songs?
8. Why did the band split?
9. Who are the only Beatles still alive and what happened to the rest of the band?
10. Do you know any Beatles song? Which one? What do you think of this band?