

Rock 'n' Roll Trivia

This activity includes 30 questions about rock and roll. The questions are accompanied by the answers and additional information for discussion.

There are several activity possibilities:

- For a group activity, read and discuss the trivia questions and answers. Also, print the [picture pages](#) to pass around during the activity.
- For independent activities, print and distribute fill-in-the-blank copies of the [questions without the answers](#). Also available are the [questions with the answers](#).
- Post one or more of the trivia questions on your bulletin board every day or so throughout the month, using this [special sign](#).



Trivia Questions and Answers

1. What British band is often credited with spearheading the “British Invasion” of the United States in the early 1960s?

Answer: The Beatles. Their groundbreaking appearance on *The Ed Sullivan Show* on February 9, 1965, marked a significant cultural moment. Over 73 million people gathered at their TVs to watch the Beatles’ first live performance in the U.S., which helped pave the way for other British bands to gain popularity in the States.

2. What 1955 Bill Haley & His Comets song is often credited with bringing rock and roll into mainstream culture?

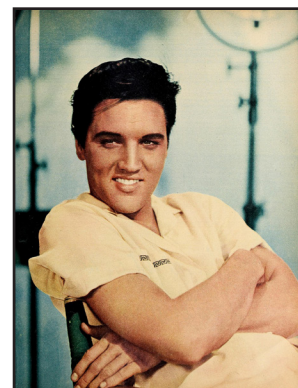
Answer: “Rock Around the Clock.” Its popularity soared after being featured in the film *Blackboard Jungle*, selling a million copies monthly.

3. What is the title of the 1996 film, written and directed by Tom Hanks, that follows the rise and fall of a fictional 1960s rock band called the Wonders?

Answer: *That Thing You Do*. Tom Hanks stated that he wrote the script for *That Thing You Do* while on the promotional tour for *Forrest Gump* because he was bored from the continuous rounds of interviews.

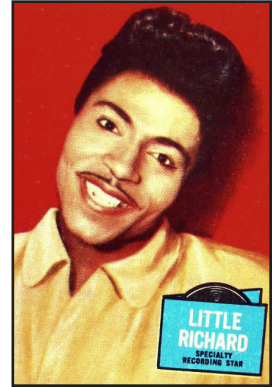
4. Who is often called the “King of Rock and Roll”?

Answer: Elvis Presley. His dynamic performances, groundbreaking recordings, and charismatic stage presence revolutionized popular music in the 1950s and 1960s.



5. What iconic 1955 rock-and-roll song, famously performed by Little Richard, is known for its energetic piano riff and lyrics about colorful candy treats?

Answer: “Tutti Frutti.” Richard said that “Awap bop a lup bop a wop bam boo” was his catchphrase that he often used as a reply when asked how he was doing.



6. Who sang the 1958 hit “Summertime Blues”?

Answer: Eddie Cochran. The song was later covered by Blue Cheer, the Who, and Rush.

7. What was the name of the TV show that helped launch the careers of many 1950s rock-and-roll stars?

Answer: *American Bandstand*. The show was hosted by Dick Clark and helped popularize rock-and-roll music and dance around the United States.

8. What 1969 festival is considered a pivotal moment in rock music history?

Answer: Woodstock. Though the festival got its name from the town, it took place on a dairy farm in Bethel, New York, 60 miles from Woodstock.

9. What British rock band, led by Mick Jagger, released the hit single “(I Can’t Get No) Satisfaction” in 1965?

Answer: The Rolling Stones. The song was originally recorded using a fuzz box to achieve its distinctive sound.

10. What 1960s rock band, known for their distinctive sound and fronted by Roger Daltrey, released the album *My Generation*?

Answer: The Who. Peter Townshend wrote the song “My Generation,” famous for its rebellious lyrics and powerful delivery.



11. Who was the lead guitarist for the band Led Zeppelin, known for his influential playing style and iconic guitar solos on tracks like “Stairway to Heaven”?

Answer: Jimmy Page. Page has continued to do amazing things, such as performing with Leona Lewis in the closing ceremony of the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, China.

12. What was the title of Bob Dylan’s 1965 album that furthered his transition from acoustic folk to electric rock music?

Answer: *Highway 61 Revisited*. His first transition from acoustic folk to electric rock music was showcased at the July 1965 Newport Folk Festival, shocking the folk purists in the audience.

13. What instrument, first commercially produced in the 1930s and popularized by artists like Chuck Berry and Jimi Hendrix, revolutionized the sound of rock-and-roll music with its amplification and distinctive tone?

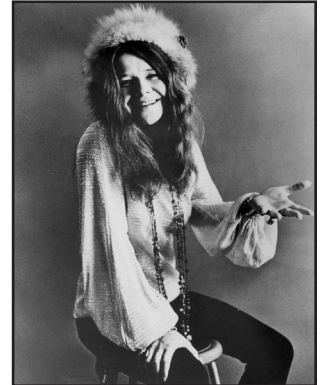
Answer: Electric guitar. The first commercially successful electric guitar was the Rickenbacker A-22 Electro Hawaiian “Frying Pan,” developed by George Beauchamp and Adolph Rickenbacker in 1931.

14. What instrument, played by rock legends like John Bonham of Led Zeppelin and Keith Moon of the Who, is essential for providing the rhythmic backbone and dynamic beats in rock-and-roll music?

Answer: Drums. Bonham is known for his aggressive technique and complex rhythms, while Moon is known for his energetic and unpredictable drumming style.

15. What influential rock singer, known for her powerful voice and hits like “Piece of My Heart” and “Me and Bobby McGee,” was a prominent figure in the 1960s music scene and performed at both the Monterey Pop Festival and Woodstock?

Answer: Janis Joplin. She was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1995 and celebrated as the “First Lady of Rock and Roll.”



16. What American rock band, known for their harmonies and hits like “Good Vibrations” and “California Girls,” was founded in 1961?

Answer: The Beach Boys. The group was founded by Brian Wilson, his brothers Dennis and Carl Wilson, their cousin Mike Love, and friend Al Jardine.

17. What was the title of Simon & Garfunkel’s first hit single, originally released in 1964 and later remixed to become a major hit in 1965?

Answer: “The Sound of Silence.” The two broke up in 1970 but reunited in 1981 to perform the Concert in Central Park, which attracted more than 750,000 people.



18. Who wrote most of Simon & Garfunkel’s songs, including many of their biggest hits?

Answer: Paul Simon. Art Garfunkel helped more with the harmonies and how the songs would be produced.

19. What iconic guitarist of the Rolling Stones is known for his signature riffs?

Answer: Keith Richards. He and the Rolling Stones were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1989.

20. What progressive rock band, formed in 1965, is known for their iconic albums *The Dark Side of the Moon*, *Wish You Were Here*, and *The Wall*?

Answer: Pink Floyd. Their 1973 album *The Dark Side of the Moon* is one of the best-selling albums of all time. It is celebrated for its innovative use of studio effects and thematic exploration of mental illness and existential themes.

21. Who did the Animals’ hit song “We Gotta Get out of This Place” become an anthem for during the Vietnam War?

Answer: American soldiers. The song resonated strongly with those seeking to leave challenging situations.

22. What is the title of Chuck Berry's 1955 hit song, which features a trademark guitar riff and lyrics about a Cadillac?

Answer: "Maybellene." Berry's first royalty check for the song was more than twice what he paid for his house.

23. Who was the lead singer of the band Fleetwood Mac, which released their self-titled album in 1975?

Answer: Stevie Nicks. Before Stevie Nicks joined the group, the band was led primarily by its founder, Peter Green.

24. What accessory, often worn around the neck of rock musicians, is used to strum or pick the strings of an electric guitar?

Answer: Guitar pick. The pick's shape and thickness can significantly affect a guitarist's tone and playability, making it an essential tool for players across all genres.

25. What is the term for the large vehicle rock bands use, often equipped with sleeping quarters and a lounge, to travel between tour locations?

Answer: Tour bus. The Who's famous "magic bus," featured in their rock opera *Tommy*, epitomizes the era's rock-and-roll bus culture. Today these vehicles remain a staple for touring artists.

26. What clothing item often worn by rock musicians in the 1950s and '60s is associated with their rebellious and edgy style?

Answer: Leather jacket. Rock pioneers like Elvis Presley popularized the rugged, rebellious look associated with leather jackets. Elvis wore an all-leather outfit when he filmed his comeback special in 1968.

27. What is the name of the classic rock instrument that provides the rhythm and bass line, often seen in bands alongside electric guitars and drums?

Answer: Electric bass. The electric bass helped shape the sound and rhythm of rock music.

28. What rock-and-roll star, known for his energetic stage performance, released the hit song "Great Balls of Fire" in 1957?

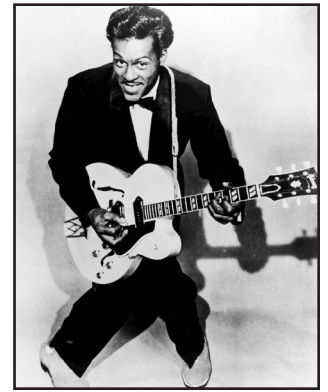
Answer: Jerry Lee Lewis. He was known as "The Killer," and with this song, he showcased his distinctive style, which blends rock, boogie, and country.

29. What 1950s rock-and-roll pioneer is known for his hits "Peggy Sue" and "That'll Be the Day"?

Answer: Buddy Holly. He tragically died in a plane crash in 1959.

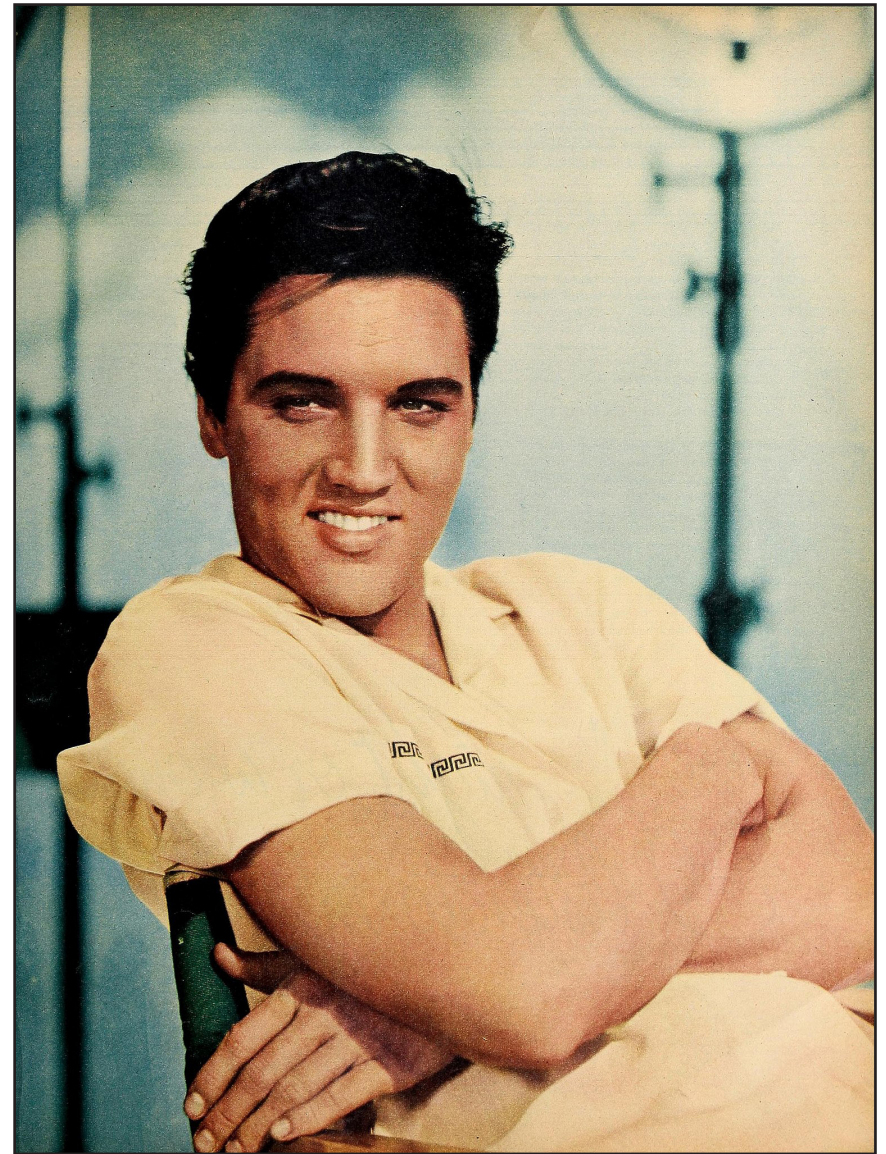
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Answer: Jimi Hendrix. Despite being unable to read or write music, Hendrix achieved a meteoric rise in the music industry, accomplishing extraordinary success in just four short years.

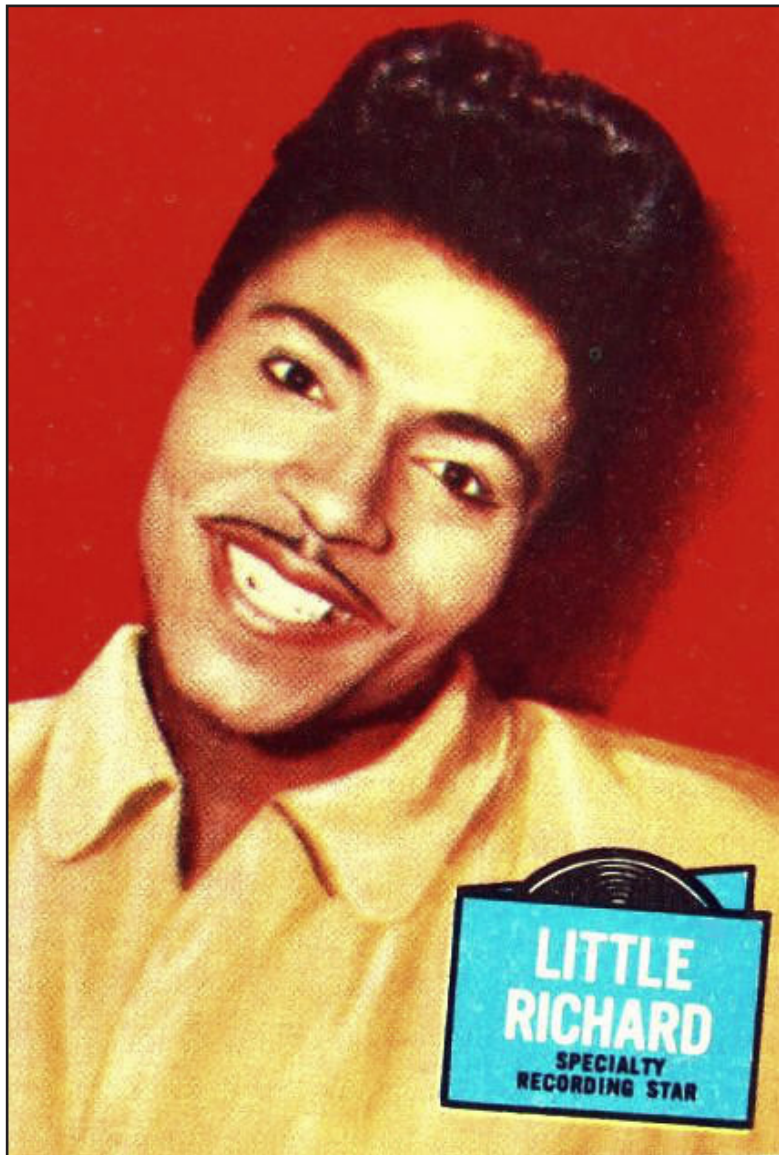




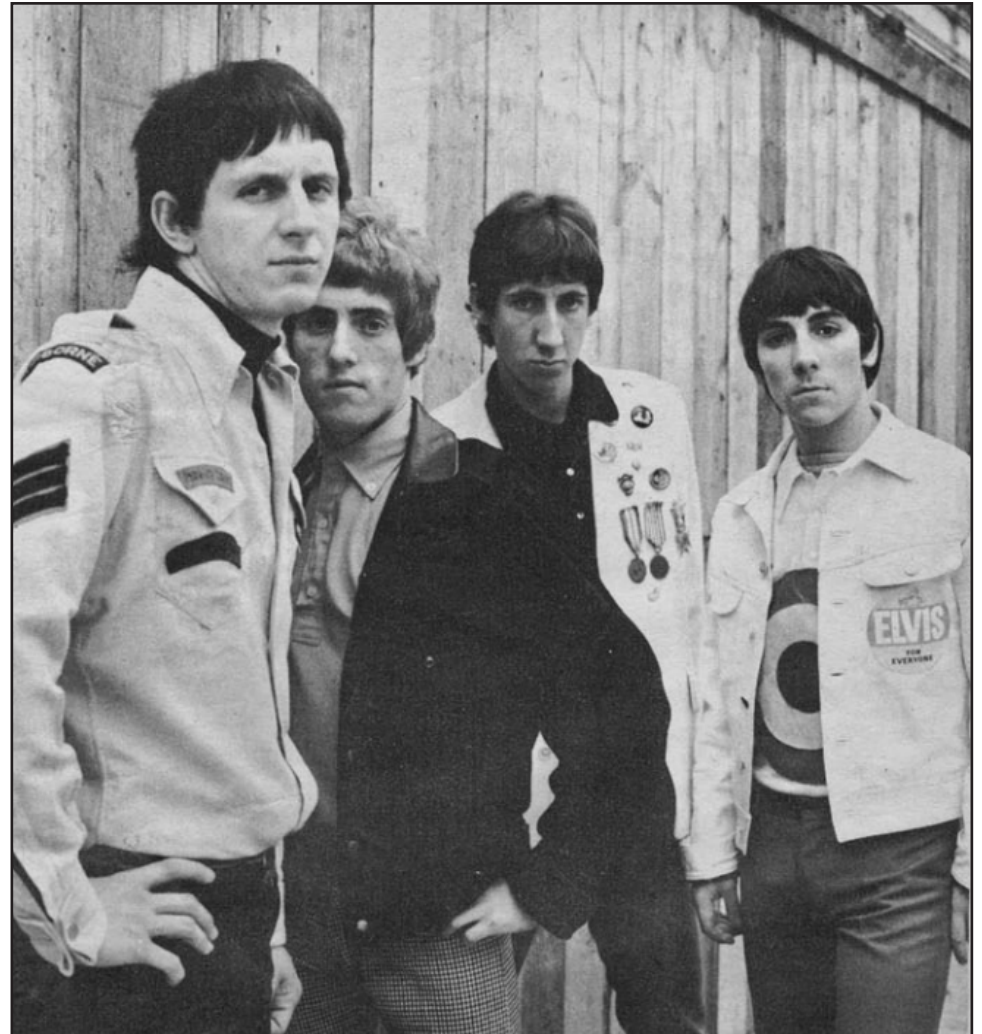
Bill Haley & his Comets



Elvis Presley



Little Richard



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Janis Joplin



Simon and Garfunkel



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Leather Jacket

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Rock 'n' Roll Trivia

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