

History of Rock, Pt. 2: 1966-1985

Music is shaped by culture. It reflects the changing times, movements, and major events of the day. The 1960s were the age of the hippies, the Vietnam War, and a changing outlook that permanently changed the face of rock. The world was introduced to psychedelic, metal, and goth rock.

Rock Gets its Edge

By comparison, the 1950s were a mild and rigid time. Rock & Roll music had an upbeat tune and grinning band members while 60s bands were experimental, improvisational, and darker.

Seattle-born musician Jimi Hendrix was heavily inspired by blues singers like Muddy Waters. He played with Ike and Tina Turner, Little Richard, and other major artists of the time. While he wasn't very successful in the US, he was a hit overseas. In 1967, he released hit Purple Haze. His "electric blues" had a rippling effect on guitarists every decade since.

Drama



As the music became more experimental, so did the fashion. Rock and metal singers popularized androgynous fashion on stage in the 1970s and beyond. Singer David Bowie was an icon of the '70s. His unique sense of style was an eye catcher on every occasion. David would perform as various androgynous characters on stage and in music videos, including his 1972-character Ziggy Stardust. The band Queen played their first show in 1971. Their iconic song "Bohemian Rhapsody" was released along with their next album. In 1985, Queen performed to the biggest audience in history of almost 2 billion people, 72,000 in person.

The Birth of Goth Rock

The 1980s introduced poetic music inspired by the macabre. In 1979, A Certain Ratio released their album *All Night Party*. This could be known as the beginning of the subgenre. In 1980, Bauhaus released their album *In the Flat Field*. The band's monotonous vocals and sad nihilistic lyrics made a name for goth rock. Rock is a culmination of struggle, rebellion, storytelling, and hope.

- 1) What Rock songs do you know from before 1985?
- 2) What do you like most about this period in rock music?
- 3) What fact surprised you most?

Comment down below what you think!