

History of Rock, Pt. 3: 1986 - 2000

Music is shaped by culture. It reflects the changing times, movements, and major events of the day.

MTV

On August 1st, 1981, a new television channel swept the nation. The first music video to air was fittingly "Video Killed the Radio Star" by The Buggles. This was revolutionary as it maintained a platform for upcoming artists of many genres for well over a decade. MTV grew to be a favorite globally. In 1994, they hosted the first MTV Music Video Awards.

New Sounds

In Olympia, Washington, a group of punk girls formed the Riot Grrrl movement. A trio formed Bratmobile, and later returned that summer to join forces with Bikini Kill. They would go on to make music covering heavier women's issues and intersectional feminism. Bikini Kill officially started touring in 1991 and lasted until 1997. Bratmobile dissolved in 1994, only returning for a short reunion 5 years later.

While bands at the time hated being labelled, grunge was an iconic piece of the '90s. In 1991, Nirvana, Soundgarden, and Stone Temple Pilots all released albums, kicking off the movement.

Third wave ska music reached the United States in the 1980s, but only became popular the following decade. Ska music set the stage for rocksteady and reggae.

In 1986, Run-DMC and Aerosmith teamed up to release a collab album, titled *King of Rock*. The two most iconic songs of the album were "King of Rock" and "Walk This Way." The iconic song went down as a rap classic for generations.

Metal and Controversy

Rage Against the Machine is a rap rock group comprised of four members. Their sound was a funk-rap-rock fusion that challenged the separation of genres and helped unite people of different backgrounds. The band smashed onto the scene with songs about police brutality, systemic racism, and the abuse of the American punishment system. The band has been on and off since then, always exploding back onto the scene with the same energy.

- 1) What do you like most about this era of rock?
- 2) What part of this era would you like to come back?
- 3) Was there anything surprising to learn?

Comment down below what you think!