



PUNK

Fact Sheet



What do you get when you combine young, rebellious, opinionated people with guitars, drums and very loud amplifiers? ... Punk Rock!

The loud, simple music which started off in the garages of the late 1960s, by the mid 1970s had developed into a musical style with its own **subculture**, including a distinctive dress style and way of thinking. The punk ideology stressed individual freedom and non-conformity and these were often expressed in the lyrics of their songs. The music was loud and angry, with driving vocals accompanied only by guitars and drums.

So much of the punk way of life was related to their individualistic and independent ideologies. They expressed themselves by dressing in unique ways that were very different from the mainstream. Their clothing styles included lots of black, leather, combat boots, chains, and safety pins for earrings ... the louder and more shocking, the better! Punk groups also tended to do everything themselves as far as producing, recording, and selling music. They trusted no one and would rather manage themselves than **"sell out"** and allow record producers and agents to take control.

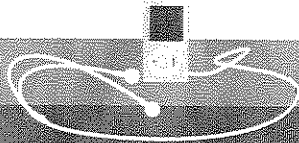
In London, groups like the Clash and the Sex Pistols dominated the local punk music scene. These groups served as an inspiration to other British punk bands that followed. The Clash was sometimes called "the only band that matters".

In America, the Ramones, from New York City led the punk movement. The standard punk rock haircut was fairly short. The Ramones even rebelled against the "standard punk" haircut by wearing their hair long and shaggy.

By the end of the 1970s, Punk Rock had established itself as a genre and like so many other types of rock, began its natural evolution into many different **sub-genres**. These included New Wave, Post-punk, Hardcore, Oi!, Anarcho Punk and Pop Punk. The Hardcore style of 1980s was faster and heavier and often associated with **slam dancing**, later known as "moshing". It was also the precursor to the thrash metal style of bands such as as Metallica, Megadeth, Slayer, and Anthrax. Pop Punk, on the other hand returned to a slightly more melodic approach which made it more appealing to the general population. It was a style that eventually morphed into the grunge and alternative rock made popular by groups like Green Day.

Punk music has had a very colorful and eventful history that doesn't show any signs of slowing down. Who knows what direction punk music will take in the future? What we do know is that it looks like it is here to stay for a while longer.

Fast Facts



Time Frame: Early Punk Rock: 1974-1976, various styles to present day

Influences: Rock and Roll, Garage Pop

Instrumentation: A "back to the basics" approach - guitar, drums, bass, and vocals

Major Artists

Early Punk Rock: The Ramones, The Clash, The Sex Pistols

New Wave: Talking Heads, Blondie, The Cars

Post-Punk: Siouxsie and The Banshees, The Raincoats, The Fall

Hardcore: Black Flag, Fear, The Circle Jerks

Pop Punk: Green Day

Fun Fact



In 1977, the Sex Pistols released one of their most controversial singles: "God Save the Queen".

With its anti-monarchy lyrics and its mocking of the British national anthem, it epitomized the punk rebellion against the establishment. Even its release date was timed to coincide with the Queen's Silver Jubilee.

The band attempted to get around a ban on live, unofficial performances by trying to perform their song on a boat on the river Thames, stating that they weren't actually setting foot on land.

Monarchists did not appreciate the ridiculing of their Queen and several band members were and subsequently several band members were physically attacked.