

Bob Marley's 60th birthday concert (Sun 6 Feb)

WARM UPS

CHAT: Talk in pairs or groups about Bob Marley / reggae / No Woman, No Cry / Rastafarianism / Ethiopia / birthday parties / final resting place / ...

To make things more dynamic, try telling your students they only have one minute (or 2) on each chat topic before changing topics / partners. Change topic / partner frequently to energize the class.

MARLEY BRAINSTORM: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with Bob Marley / Reggae. Share your words with your partner / group and talk about them.

MARLEY SONGS: Look at the titles of the following Bob Marley songs. Talk to your partner about what you think the songs are about. Change partners and share opinions. Look the song lyrics up on the Internet for homework to see if you were right:

- Stop That Train
- I Shot The Sheriff
- Rebel Music
- Rat Race
- Exodus
- Three Little Birds
- Africa Unite
- So Much Trouble In The World
- No Woman, No Cry

MY 60th BIRTHDAY: Talk about what you would like to do on your 60th birthday. Is it a special birthday in your culture? Do you get to retire? Do you have a big party?

PRE READING EXERCISES

WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries, or a search engine, to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... of the words 'birthday', and 'concert'.

TRUE / FALSE: Predict from the headline whether these statements are true or false:

- (a) Bob Marley was (is) a Reggae legend. T / F
- (b) He died of cancer in 1981, aged 56. T / F
- (c) Today in Jamaica there will be a birthday concert to honor him. T / F
- (d) He was one of the most important contributors to modern music. T / F
- (e) Jamaica is the home of reggae music. T / F
- (f) Bob Marley's music isn't heard so much now, twenty-five years after his death. T / F
- (g) Bob Marley's songs will live forever. T / F
- (h) It is his wife's hope that Bob Marley may one day be reburied in Ethiopia. T / F

SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | | |
|-----|-------------|----------------|
| (a) | legend | enthusiasts |
| (b) | follower | desire |
| (c) | honor | promoter |
| (d) | lovers | believer |
| (e) | celebrate | timeless |
| (f) | contributor | commemorate |
| (g) | spiritual | great |
| (h) | classic | representative |
| (i) | wish | pay respect to |
| (j) | symbolic | religious |

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases based on the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| (a) | Reggae | contributors to modern music |
| (b) | Bob Marley would have been | roots |
| (c) | a birthday concert to | 60 years old today |
| (d) | one of the most important | place |
| (e) | in his native | forever |
| (f) | spiritual | legend |
| (g) | classic | Jamaica |
| (h) | will live | in Ethiopia |
| (i) | a very symbolic | honor him |
| (j) | may one day be reburied | songs |

DEFINITIONS: Match the following words with the **most likely** definitions (Please think about the headline!):

(a) **legend** (n)

- (i) a person that will be remembered forever for doing something (usually) great
- (ii) your foot

(b) **religion** (n)

- (i) the set of beliefs you follow by praying, reading a holy book and going to a church, mosque, temple, synagogue etc
- (ii) the area of a country in which you were born

(c) **cancer** (n)

- (i) an electrical device for opening tins of vegetables, fruit, soup, rice pudding etc
- (ii) a terrible illness that destroys parts of your body, and often leads to death

(d) **honor** (v)

- (i) to practice something over and over again until it is perfect
- (ii) to do something special to show how much you love(d) and respect(ed) another person

(e) **celebrate** (v)

- (i) to have a party and do lots of fun things for a special reason such as a birthday, national day, passing an exam ...
- (ii) the part of the brain that is connected to your spine

(f) **spiritual** (adj)

- (i) something that is connected with your soul and very deepest beliefs about life and the universe
- (ii) a geometric shape

(g) **roots** (n)

- (i) your family history that shows where you came from originally
- (ii) a nickname given to an Australian animal that can jump long distances

(h) **classic** (adj)

- (i) something that will be great, wonderful, and liked forever
- (ii) when you don't attend school because you really hate it.

(i) **symbolic** (adj)

- (i) when one thing is used to represent another
- (ii) the crashing sound made by the cymbal player in an orchestra

(j) **reburied** (v)

- (i) to be placed in a different grave / tomb after first being put in an initial one
- (ii) to not do what your family, school or society tell you

GAP FILL

Bob Marley's 60th birthday concert (Sun 6 Feb)

BNE: Reggae legend and _____ of the Rastafarian religion Bob Marley _____ have been 60 years old today. He died of cancer in 1981, aged 36. Today in Ethiopia there will be a birthday concert to honor him. Thousands of _____ Rastafarians and reggae lovers from around the world will travel to Addis Ababa, the capital city, to celebrate in _____ and music one of the most important contributors to modern music. Bob Marley's birthday is usually celebrated in his _____ Jamaica, the home of reggae music, however this time it is in Ethiopia, which is where the spiritual roots of Rastafarianism are. Nearly twenty five years after his death Marley's music is still heard wherever you go in the world. _____ songs like No Woman, No Cry, Exodus and One Love will live forever. Bob Marley's widow, Rita, said "It has always been the _____ of Bob Marley to return to Ethiopia and become a Rastafarian... and with the African Union, Addis Ababa is the capital of Africa and therefore a very symbolic place." It is Rita's hope that Bob Marley may one _____ be reburied in Ethiopia.

fellow classic follower native would day words wish

DISCUSSION: Ask each other the following questions:

- (a) Do you like reggae?
- (b) When did you first hear reggae?
- (c) Have you heard of Bob Marley?
- (d) What Bob Marley songs do you know / like?
- (e) What other reggae songs / artists do you know / like?
- (f) What do you know of Rastafarianism?
- (g) Would you like to have your hair in dreadlocks?
- (h) Rastafarians believe marijuana was given to us by God to be enjoyed. What do you think?
- (i) What do you know about Ethiopia?
- (j) Would you like to go to Bob Marley's country of birth - Jamaica?
- (k) What would you like to do on your 60th birthday?
- (l) How would you like people to honor you?
- (m) Teacher / Student additional questions

INTERNET / WEB LINKS:

Bob Marley biography:

<http://www.hotshotdigital.com/OldRock/BobMarleyBio.html>

About Rastafarianism:

<http://www.swagga.com/rastasymbol.htm>

About Haile Selassie

<http://history.acusd.edu/gen/text/selassie.html>

Bob Marley discography:

<http://www.hermosarecords.com/marley/discog.html>

HOMEWORK

BOB MARLEY: Create a poster on the life of Bob Marley.

BOB MARLEY SONG: Choose a Bob Marley song. Find the lyrics on the Internet. Write your explanation of what they mean.

FULL TEXT

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