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Hip-hop is history at American museum

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2 March, 2006

THE ARTICLE

Hip-hop is history at American museum

A new musical genre has made it into the venerable halls of America's prestigious Smithsonian Institute. Hip-hop artists will now take their place alongside the greats from classical, jazz and folk music. The museum has announced plans to embark on a definitive collection of artifacts that traces hip-hop's inner-city subculture origins in the Bronx in the 1970s to the present day. The exhibition is to be called "Hip-Hop Won't Stop: the Beat, the Rhymes, the Life". For nearly three decades, rap artists had been plying their trade being recognized only by the millions of fans who purchased their records and attended their concerts. Officials predict it will take five years to amass enough material that will showcase hip-hop's true roots.

The Smithsonian plans to work with a myriad of hip-hop artists and the music channel MTV. Museum spokeswoman Valeska Hilbig said: "Hip-hop was born in New York but it's now a global phenomenon....It's here to stay, and it's part of American culture, just like jazz is part of American history. It's part of the narrative we tell at the museum." Pioneering rappers and DJs, such as Grandmaster Flash, DJ Kool and Afrika Bambaataa have promised to donate memorabilia, such as records, turntables, posters and a "boom box" to the collection. Gangsta rap legend Ice-T expressed his enthusiasm for the project, saying: "When somebody comes and asks me about my music and about hip-hop, I can say, 'Take your ...hindquarters to the museum, all right?'"

WARM-UPS

1. HIP-HOP: In pairs / groups, talk about hip-hop. When did you first hear it? What do you think of it? Write down three words to describe hip-hop. Share them with other students.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words are most interesting and which are most boring.

Musical genres / artists / classical music / jazz / artifacts / tracing origins / rhymes / concerts / MTV / global phenomena / museums / memorabilia / boom boxes / ice

Have a chat about the topics you liked. For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

3. GENRES: Tell each what you think of the following music genres:

- Hip-hop
- Rock
- Blues
- Jazz
- Reggae
- Pop
- Folk
- Country and Western
- Grunge
- Other

4. EXHIBITIONS: In pairs / groups, put the following in order of which you would like to see at an exhibition:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| _____ The history of hip-hop | _____ Leonardo Da Vinci |
| _____ Dinosaurs | _____ Modern inventions |
| _____ The history of your town | _____ Balloons |
| _____ Postage stamps | _____ Photography |

5. HIP-HOP STARTERS: With your partner(s), finish the following sentence beginnings:

- a. Hip-hop is _____.
- b. Hip-hop should be _____.
- c. Hip-hop cannot _____.
- d. Hip-hop can never _____.
- e. Hip-hop must _____.
- f. Hip-hop always _____.

6. MUSEUM: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "museum". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

1. TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a. Hip-hop music has finished and become a part of history. | T / F |
| b. A prestigious U.S. museum will house a hip-hop exhibition. | T / F |
| c. Hip-hop started in Los Angeles, California. | T / F |
| d. Officials predict it will take five weeks to gather enough exhibits. | T / F |
| e. The museum plans to work with a myriad of hip-hop artists. | T / F |
| f. Hip-hop is almost a global phenomenon. | T / F |
| g. Famous artists have pledged a boom box to the exhibition. | T / F |
| h. Famous rapper Ice T thinks the exhibition is a great idea. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| a. genre | chronicle |
| b. venerable | exhaustive |
| c. definitive | display |
| d. plying their trade | sensation |
| e. showcase | legs |
| f. myriad | historical objects |
| g. phenomenon | respected |
| h. narrative | multitude |
| i. memorabilia | category |
| j. hindquarters | working |

3. PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| a. made it into the venerable | subculture origins |
| b. take their place | to stay |
| c. traces hip-hop's inner-city | their trade |
| d. rap artists had been plying | of hip-hop artists |
| e. it will take five years to | alongside the greats |
| f. work with a myriad | memorabilia |
| g.It's here | amass enough material |
| h. It's part of the narrative | halls of... |
| i. promised to donate | enthusiasm for the project |
| j. expressed his | we tell at the museum |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

GAP FILL: Put the words in the column on the right into the gaps in the text.

Hip-hop is history at American museum

A new musical genre has _____ it into the venerable halls of America's prestigious Smithsonian Institute. Hip-hop artists will now take their place _____ the greats from classical, jazz and folk music. The museum has announced plans to _____ on a definitive collection of _____ that traces hip-hop's inner-city subculture origins in the Bronx in the 1970s to the present day. The exhibition is to be called "Hip-Hop Won't Stop: the Beat, the _____, the Life". For nearly three decades, rap artists had been _____ their trade being recognized only by the millions of fans who purchased their records and attended their concerts. Officials _____ it will take five years to amass enough material that will showcase hip-hop's true _____.

embark

rhymes

made

predict

artifacts

alongside

roots

plying

The Smithsonian plans to work with a _____ of hip-hop artists and the music channel MTV. Museum spokeswoman Valeska Hilbig said: "Hip-hop was _____ in New York but it's now a global phenomenon...It's here to stay, and it's part of American culture, just like jazz is part of American history. It's part of the _____ we tell at the museum." _____ rappers and DJs, such as Grandmaster Flash, DJ Kool and Afrika Bambaataa have promised to _____ memorabilia, such as records, turntables, posters and a "_____ box" to the collection. Gangsta rap _____ Ice-T expressed his enthusiasm for the project, saying: "When somebody comes and asks me about my music and about hip-hop, I can say, ' _____ your ...hindquarters to the museum, all right?'"

pioneering

born

take

narrative

legend

myriad

donate

boom

LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

Hip-hop is history at American museum

A new musical genre has made it into the _____ halls of America's _____ Smithsonian Institute. Hip-hop artists will now take their place _____ the greats from classical, jazz and folk music. The museum has announced plans to embark on a _____ collection of artifacts that traces hip-hop's inner-city _____ origins in the Bronx in the 1970s to the present day. The exhibition is to be called "Hip-Hop Won't Stop: the Beat, the Rhymes, the Life". For nearly three decades, rap artists had been _____ their trade being recognized only by the millions of fans who purchased their records and attended their concerts. Officials predict it will take five years to amass enough material that will _____ hip-hop's true roots.

The Smithsonian plans to work with a _____ of hip-hop artists and the music channel MTV. Museum spokeswoman Valeska Hilbig said: "Hip-hop was born in New York but it's now a global _____....It's here to stay, and it's part of American culture, just like jazz is part of American history. It's part of the _____ we tell at the museum." Pioneering rappers and DJs, such as Grandmaster Flash, DJ Kool and Afrika Bambaataa have promised to donate _____, such as records, turntables, posters and a " _____ " to the collection. Gangsta rap legend Ice-T expressed his _____ for the project, saying: "When somebody comes and asks me about my music and about hip-hop, I can say, 'Take your _____ to the museum, all right?'"

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'hip' and 'hop'.

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. STUDENT "HIP-HOP" SURVEY: In pairs / groups, write down questions about hip-hop and museums.

- Ask other classmates your questions and note down their answers.
- Go back to your original partner / group and compare your findings.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

6. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall exactly how these were used in the text:

- | | |
|----------|----------------|
| • genre | • myriad |
| • greats | • born |
| • embark | • narrative |
| • plying | • memorabilia |
| • fans | • legend |
| • amass | • hindquarters |

DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a. Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- b. What do you think of hip-hop music?
- c. What do you think of hip-hop fashion and lifestyle?
- d. How would you define hip-hop?
- e. Why does hip-hop sometimes have a bad image?
- f. What do you think about hip-hop being showcased in a prestigious American museum?
- g. Do you prefer American hip-hop or that in your own language?
- h. Who do you think is the greatest hip-hop artist?
- i. How do you think hip-hop has changed society?
- j. Will you "take your.....hindquarters" to the exhibition?

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a. Did you like reading this article?
- b. What's the difference between hip-hop and rap?
- c. Why do you think lots of older people don't like hip-hop?
- d. In what ways is hip-hop different from pop and rock?
- e. What's the difference between a boom box and a stereo?
- f. Do you think hip-hop will eventually be seen to be as important as jazz?
- g. What do you think of hip-hop love songs?
- h. Do you think hip-hop will ever become mainstream and that something more original and innovative will replace it?
- i. What's (who's) your favorite hip-hop song / movie / artist?
- j. Did you like this discussion?

AFTER DISCUSSION: Join another partner / group and tell them what you talked about.

- a. What was the most interesting thing you heard?
- b. Was there a question you didn't like?
- c. Was there something you totally disagreed with?
- d. What did you like talking about?
- e. Which was the most difficult question?

SPEAKING

MUSICAL PHENOMENA: With your partner(s), discuss how the following musical genres have changed society. It might be a good idea to change the genre to ones that have changed your society.

| | Society before | Society after |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Rock 'n' Roll | | |
| 60s | | |
| House / Electro | | |
| Punk | | |
| Grunge | | |
| Disco | | |
| Hip-hop | | |

Give a presentation to other groups about what you discussed.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find information about the Smithsonian Institute and hip-hop. Share your findings with your class in the next lesson. Did you all find out similar things?

3. ARTIST: Make a poster about a hip-hop artist. Explain his/her contribution to hip-hop and/or rap. Show your poster to your classmates in the next lesson. Which artist did you learn most about?

4. HIP-HOP: Write an essay describing your feelings about hip-hop. How does the music make you feel when you hear it? Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Did everyone write about similar feelings?

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

- a. F b. T c. F d. F e. T f. F g. T h. T

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| a. genre | category |
| b. venerable | respected |
| c. definitive | exhaustive |
| d. plying their trade | working |
| e. showcase | display |
| f. myriad | multitude |
| g. phenomenon | sensation |
| h. narrative | chronicle |
| i. memorabilia | historical objects |
| j. hindquarters | legs |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| a. made it into the venerable | halls of... |
| b. take their place | alongside the greats |
| c. traces hip-hop's inner-city | subculture origins |
| d. rap artists had been plying | their trade |
| e. it will take five years to | amass enough material |
| f. work with a myriad | of hip-hop artists |
| g.It's here | to stay |
| h. It's part of the narrative | we tell at the museum |
| i. promised to donate | memorabilia |
| j. expressed his | enthusiasm for the project |

GAP FILL:

Hip-hop is history at American museum

A new musical genre has **made** it into the venerable halls of America's prestigious Smithsonian Institute. Hip-hop artists will now take their place **alongside** the greats from classical, jazz and folk music. The museum has announced plans to **embark** on a definitive collection of **artifacts** that traces hip-hop's inner-city subculture origins in the Bronx in the 1970s to the present day. The exhibition is to be called "Hip-Hop Won't Stop: the Beat, the **Rhymes**, the Life". For nearly three decades, rap artists had been **plying** their trade being recognized only by the millions of fans who purchased their records and attended their concerts. Officials **predict** it will take five years to amass enough material that will showcase hip-hop's true **roots**.

The Smithsonian plans to work with a **myriad** of hip-hop artists and the music channel MTV. Museum spokeswoman Valeska Hilbig said: "Hip-hop was **born** in New York but it's now a global phenomenon....It's here to stay, and it's part of American culture, just like jazz is part of American history. It's part of the **narrative** we tell at the museum." **Pioneering** rappers and DJs, such as Grandmaster Flash, DJ Kool and Afrika Bambaataa have promised to **donate** memorabilia, such as records, turntables, posters and a "**boom** box" to the collection. Gangsta rap **legend** Ice-T expressed his enthusiasm for the project, saying: "When somebody comes and asks me about my music and about hip-hop, I can say, '**Take** your ...hindquarters to the museum, all right?'"