

UN declares reggae a world cultural treasure

1st December, 2018



Reggae music has become a global cultural treasure. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has added reggae to its list of cultural forms it deems worthy of protecting and

promoting. UNESCO officially recognized reggae as an "Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity". Reggae is a music genre that originated in Jamaica in the early 1960s. Pioneers included artists such as Toots and the Maytals, Peter Tosh and the legendary Bob Marley. The Jamaican government was pleased with reggae's new status. Olivia Grange, Jamaica's culture minister, said: "Reggae is uniquely Jamaican. It is a music that we have created that has penetrated all corners of the world."

UNESCO defined reggae as being, "an amalgam of numerous musical influences," including Jamaican and Caribbean forms, neo-African styles, soul and rhythm and blues from North America, and Ska and Rock Steady. It described the importance of the music, saying: "Reggae music was the voice of the marginalized. The music is now played and embraced by a wide cross-section of society, including various genders, ethnic and religious groups." It added: "Reggae's contribution to international discourse on issues of injustice, resistance, love and humanity underscores the dynamics of the [music] as being...cerebral, socio-political, sensual and spiritual."

Sources: bbc.com / nation.co.ke / ich.unesco.org

Writing

Reggae is one of the greatest ever music genres. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

reggae / music / treasure / heritage / genre / Jamaica / artists / legendary / world / UNESCO / influences / Caribbean / voice / ethnic / cross-section / love / sensual

True / False

- a) UNESCO listed reggae as a global cultural treasure. T / F
- b) Reggae started in Jamaica in the 1950s. T / F
- c) Jamaica's government was not happy with reggae's listing. T / F
- d) Jamaica's culture minister said reggae was uniquely Caribbean. T / F
- e) UNESCO said reggae was influenced by rhythm and blues. T / F
- f) UNESCO said reggae was the voice of the marginalized. T / F
- g) UNESCO said people of all genders enjoyed reggae. T / F
- h) UNESCO said reggae has contributed to discourse on revolution. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. deems | a. category |
| 2. promoting | b. sexes |
| 3. genre | c. spread throughout |
| 4. legendary | d. recounted |
| 5. penetrated | e. publicizing |
| 6. amalgam | f. sidelined |
| 7. described | g. considers |
| 8. marginalized | h. emphasizes |
| 9. genders | i. famous |
| 10. underscores | j. mix |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you know about UNESCO?
- c) What do you know about Bob Marley?
- d) Why is reggae "the voice of the marginalized"?
- e) Is reggae the music of love and sensuality?
- f) Should reggae become the official music of the world?
- g) What three adjectives best describe reggae, and why?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Jamaica's culture minister?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. cultural forms it deems worthy | a. musical influences |
| 2. Reggae is a music genre that | b. and spiritual |
| 3. the legendary | c. of the world |
| 4. Reggae is uniquely | d. section of society |
| 5. penetrated all corners | e. of protecting |
| 6. an amalgam of numerous | f. religious groups |
| 7. Reggae music was the voice of the | g. Jamaican |
| 8. a wide cross- | h. Bob Marley |
| 9. various genders, ethnic and | i. marginalized |
| 10. sensual | j. originated in Jamaica |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about reggae?
- Why do you think UNESCO deemed reggae worthy of protecting?
- What do you think of reggae?
- Who is the greatest ever reggae artist, and why?
- What unique forms of music are there in your country?
- What is your favourite music genre?
- How would you describe the sound of reggae?
- What will the new UNESCO status do for reggae?

Spelling

- it deems ortwhy of protecting
- UNESCO officially congrieezd reggae
- a music genre that ignioaretd in Jamaica
- Peter Tosh and the gneedlray Bob Marley
- Reggae is iuquenly Jamaican
- tparteend all corners of the world
- numerous musical iecelnnsfu
- mthyrh and blues
- the voice of the adliengairzm
- issues of stiiuncje
- the dinamycs of the music
- socio-political, ssnluae and spiritual

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. a	4. i	5. c
6. j	7. d	8. f	9. b	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Reggae

You think reggae is the best music genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their genres. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): rock, opera or jazz.

Role B – Rock

You think rock is the best music genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their genres. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): reggae, opera or jazz.

Role C – Opera

You think opera is the best music genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their genres. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): rock, reggae or jazz.

Role D – Jazz

You think jazz is the best music genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their genres. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): rock, opera or reggae.

Speaking – Music

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------|--------------------|
| • reggae | • opera |
| • soul | • jazz |
| • ska | • new wave |
| • rock | • rhythm and blues |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.