

# Looking at the Overlapping Timeline of Rap Music

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Era/Dates	Style in a Nutshell	Detailed Description	Representative Artists
<b>Origins</b> <u>(Pre-Rap)</u> Pre-1979	Influences from Jamaica, Synths, Disco, EDM, House Music, Street DJs and MCs merge into urban American rap	Sound from beat poets, Jamaican “toasting” and ghetto tradition of “dozens”- teasing, rapping, intros by MCs over top of the sound system culture of turntable artistry of DJs. House “beat” music in Chicago & Detroit; competitive dancing during instrumental “breaks” from disco, funk, and rock.	Gill Scott-Heron (poet), Kool DJ Herc, Frankie Knuckles, Marshall Jefferson, Afrika Bambaataa, Juan Atkins, The Belleville Three, Cybotron
<b>Birth</b> <u>(Old School)</u> 1979-1984	MCs and DJs gain limited mainstream exposure: hit songs on charts, radio, and MTV	Rap songs (lyrics and music) began to conform to pop song formats; national exposure brought popularity from urban (primarily Black) youth.	Sugarhill Gang, Kurtis Blow, Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five (Melle Mel)
<b>Infancy</b> <u>(Golden Age)</u> 1984-1994	Rap & Hip-hop culture breaks into mainstream American culture by reinventing genre	Rap lyrics moving away from street parties and dancing and towards self-glorification, sexuality, personal toughness, and materialism. Thicker soundscapes with borrowed samples and the grungier influences of funk and rock replace sounds of disco.	Run D.M.C., Beastie Boys, MC Hammer, LL Cool J, Queen Latifah, Vanilla Ice, DJ Jazzy Jeff & the Fresh Prince
<b>Rap/Hip-hop Styles Chart</b>			© 2023 AmPopMusic.com
<b>Adolescence</b> <u>(Battle of the Coasts)</u> 1992-1997	East Coast political/ racial activism vs. West Coast gangsta/ inner city life.	Rappers from each coast become rivals and opponents in messaging and style. <b>East:</b> political, racial, activists. <b>West:</b> gangsta, violence, acquiring money, and the inner-city lifestyle.	<b>East:</b> Sean “Puffy” Combs, Notorious B.I.G., Public Enemy, Chuck D, Nas, vs. <b>West:</b> Tupac Shakur, Dr. Dre, Ice-T, Ice-Cube, Snoop Dogg, N.W.A., Coolio
<b>Young Adult</b> <u>(Style Diversity)</u> 1990s to 2020s	Rap <b>moved away</b> from political activism and gangsta lifestyle and <b>towards</b> rap hybrids and reverting back to party-pop sounds	Rap moves away from political activism or gangsta violence, and gains popularity between the coasts. Hybrids ( <b>jazz-rap</b> & <b>country-rap</b> ) are developed making rap more inclusive with other styles; <b>Party-rap</b> moves back to “good-time/party” lyrics with obscene and explicit sexual language and metaphors; <b>Pop-rap</b> reaches towards a more mainstream, less violent, less political, less overtly sexual type of rap lyric.	<b>J-R:</b> A Tribe Called Quest, Gangg Starr, Digable Planets, De La Soul, <b>C-R:</b> Jason Aldean, Colt Ford, The Lacs, <b>PartyR:</b> Salt-N-Pepa, Pitbull, 2 Live Crew, <b>Pop-R:</b> Jay-Z, P. Diddy (Sean Combs), Missy Elliott
<b>Maturity</b> <u>(Comfortable Rap)</u> 2000s to Now	Rap’s longevity has earned a ubiquitous place in diverse cultural landscape.	Rap began to be embraced as "mainstream acceptable" by 1) fusing rap with a dominant R&B/soul sound, and 2) moving away from the gangsta, socio-commentary, party lyrics and towards traditional subject matter of romance, love, and life-attitudes. 3) Musical theatre infused with rap/hip-hop	<b>Rap-Soul/Rap-R&amp;B:</b> Kanye West, Eminem, Nicki Minaj, Drake, Cardi B, Mary J Blige, Kendrick Lamar, Black Eyed Peas, Outkast <b>Rap in Musical Theatre:</b> <i>Into the Woods, In the Heights, Urinetown, RENT, Hamilton</i>