

The Beatles Experience

Task 1. INTRODUCTION

In pairs or small groups brainstorm all you know about the Beatles. Talk about:

- The Beatles as a band,
- the individual members of the band,
- their musical career,
- their lives,
- the times they lived in



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Task 2. VOCABULARY

Look at the words below. Check with your partner if you know what they mean and try to guess how they could be used in the Wikipedia text you are going to read about the Beatles.

1. To regard
2. To be rooted in
3. To experiment
4. Rock era
5. To range from ... to ...
6. Psychedelia
7. To incorporate
8. Innovative
9. Enormous
10. To grow in sophistication
11. Embodiment of the ideals
12. To mold
13. Professional act
14. Sociocultural revolution
15. Break-up
16. To enjoy a musical career
17. To survive
18. Lung cancer
19. To nickname
20. To top
21. To receive an award
22. Compilation
23. To estimate
24. To be inducted
25. Hall of Fame

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Task 3. READING & VOCABULARY

Read the text below, find the words from the previous exercise and see how they were used.

THE BEATLES

The Beatles were an English rock band, formed in Liverpool in 1960. With members John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr, they became widely regarded as the greatest and most influential act of the rock era. Rooted in skiffle, beat, and 1950s rock and roll, the Beatles later experimented with several genres, ranging from pop ballads and Indian music to psychedelia and hard rock, often incorporating classical elements in innovative ways. In the early 1960s, their enormous popularity first emerged as "Beatlemania", but as the group's music grew in sophistication, led by primary songwriters Lennon and McCartney, they came to be perceived as an embodiment of the ideals shared by the era's sociocultural revolutions.

The Beatles built their reputation playing in clubs in Liverpool and Hamburg over a three-year period from 1960, during which Stuart Sutcliffe briefly served as a fifth member until his death. The core of Lennon, McCartney and Harrison went through a succession of drummers, most notably Pete Best, before settling on Starr. Manager Brian Epstein molded them into a professional act and producer George Martin enhanced their musical potential. They gained popularity in the United Kingdom after their first hit, "Love Me Do", in late 1962. They acquired the nickname "the Fab Four" as Beatlemania grew in Britain over the following year, and by early 1964 they had become international stars, leading the "British Invasion" of the United States pop market. From 1965 onwards, the Beatles produced what many consider their finest material, including the innovative and widely influential albums Rubber Soul (1965), Revolver (1966), Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band (1967), The Beatles (commonly known as the White Album, 1968) and Abbey Road (1969).

After their break-up in 1970, they each enjoyed successful musical careers of varying lengths. McCartney and Starr, the surviving members, remain musically active. Lennon was shot and killed in December 1980, and Harrison died of lung cancer in November 2001.

According to the RIAA, the Beatles are the best-selling music artists in the United States, with 178 million certified units. They have had more number-one albums on the British charts and sold more singles in the UK than any other act. In 2008, the group topped Billboard magazine's list of the all-time most successful "Hot 100" artists; as of 2015, they hold the record for most number-one hits on the Hot 100 chart with twenty. They have received ten Grammy Awards, an Academy Award for Best Original Song Score and fifteen Ivor Novello Awards. Collectively included in Time magazine's compilation of the twentieth century's 100 most influential people, they are the best-selling band in history, with estimated sales of over 600 million records worldwide. The group was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1988, with all four being inducted individually as well from 1994 to 2015. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Beatles)

Task 4. THE BEATLES QUIZ

Read the text again and write 10 multiple choice quiz questions for another team, based on the text. You will then get a chance to quiz other students, and they will quiz you!

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Task 5. HOMEWORK (Student 1)

Read the text about **Paul McCartney** and watch the video at <http://www.biography.com/people/paul-mccartney-9390850> highlight any interesting facts, take notes, and get ready to report to other students what you have read about in your next lesson.

Synopsis

Paul McCartney was born June 18, 1942, in Liverpool, England. His work with the Beatles in the 1960s helped lift popular music from its origins in the entertainment business and transform it into a creative, highly commercial art form. He is also one of the most popular solo performers of all time in terms of both sales of his recordings and attendance at his concerts.

Early Life

Sir James Paul McCartney was born on June 18, 1942, in Liverpool, England, to Mary and James McCartney. His mother was a maternity nurse, and his father a cotton salesman and jazz pianist with a local band. The young McCartney was raised in a traditional working-class family, much the same as his future fellow Beatles Ringo Starr and George Harrison. Tragically, when McCartney was only 14 years old, his mother died of complications after a mastectomy. His future bandmate, John Lennon, also lost his mother at a young age—a connection that McCartney would later point to as the start of a close bond between the two musicians.

Encouraged by his father to try out multiple musical instruments, Paul McCartney began his lifelong love affair with music at an early age. Though he took formal music lessons as a boy, the future star preferred to learn by ear, teaching himself the Spanish guitar, trumpet and piano. In 1957, the teenaged musician met John Lennon at a church festival where both young men were performing. Sensing an early affinity, McCartney joined Lennon's band, the Quarrymen. The two quickly became the group's songwriters, ushering it through many name changes and a few personnel changes as well.

The Beatles

By 1960, the group had settled on a new moniker, the Beatles, and George Harrison, Stuart Sutcliffe and Pete Best rounded out the group. The soon-to-be legendary "mod squad" started out in the 1960s in Hamburg, Germany, spending two years playing various nightclubs there. Sutcliffe soon left the band, leaving McCartney to pick up the slack as the group's bass player. While in Hamburg, the Beatles recorded their first tracks, garnering the attention of Brian Epstein, who quickly signed on as the band's manager. It wasn't long before the Beatles headed back to their home country and began working their way into the popular consciousness there. And Best's replacement by drummer Ringo Starr only helped the group gain steam.

The impact that the Beatles would ultimately have on '60s popular culture is hard to overstate. "Beatlemania" soon gripped the world, and when the group made their debut in America, the media dubbed the period of musical crossover between the two nations the "British Invasion." Little could they know at the time, this era would truly have a lasting impact on rock 'n' roll.

During a decade full of political and social strife, the Beatles expressed the broader hopes of their contemporaries for peace, love and rock 'n' roll. McCartney in particular would write more hits for the band than any other member. Songs like "Yesterday," "Hey Jude," "Let It Be," "Yellow Submarine" and "Hello, Goodbye" would provide the

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soundtrack for a generation. From 1962 to '70, the group released 12 hit studio albums, touring almost constantly, before disbanding.

Solo Career

The Beatles disbanded in 1970, breaking fans' hearts worldwide. However, McCartney had no intention of dropping out of the public eye. He was the first of the Beatles to release a solo album (*McCartney*, 1970), and though critics' reactions were mixed, the album was a hit with the public. Encouraged, McCartney went on to form Wings, a band that would remain popular throughout the '70s, winning two Grammy Awards and churning out multiple hit singles.

In 1969, McCartney married Linda Eastman, an American photographer who would serve as her husband's muse for the next 30 years. The family had four children: Heather (Linda's daughter from a previous marriage), Mary, Stella and James.

The 1980s proved a trying time for McCartney. An arrest for marijuana possession in Japan in 1980 was followed shortly by the devastating assassination of his longtime partner and friend, John Lennon. In the wake of Lennon's death, McCartney stopped touring until 1989. He continued to play and record new music, however, collaborating with the likes of Stevie Wonder and Michael Jackson. In the '90s, McCartney worked with former bandmates Harrison and Starr on *The Beatles Anthology* documentary series.

In 2012, McCartney released *Kisses on the Bottom*, which featured renditions of some of his favorite songs from childhood, including classics like "It's Only a Paper Moon" and "My Valentine." McCartney made headlines later that year, after performing with fellow rocker Bruce Springsteen at London's Hyde Park. The two legendary rock musicians even performed two Beatles hits together: "I Saw Her Standing There" and "Twist and Shout." Unfortunately, this impressive live jam was cut short by the authorities: When the concert exceeded its scheduled end time, both Springsteen's and McCartney's microphones were turned off by event organizers. More recently, McCartney signed on to headline the 2013 Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival, a four-day event held annually in Manchester, Tennessee. Other performers named to the event's lineup include Tom Petty, Billy Idol, John Oates of Hall & Oates, Jeff Tweedy and Björk.

McCartney is inarguably pop music royalty. For his contributions to global rock 'n' roll culture, he has been knighted, named a fellow at the Royal College of Music, and inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, among various other honors.

Personal Life

Tragedy struck in 1998, when McCartney's wife of 29 years, Linda McCartney, died after a long battle with cancer. Four years later, the musician married Heather Mills, a former model and anti-landmine activist. They welcomed a daughter, Beatrice, in 2003. Amid much press scrutiny and intense animosity, McCartney and Mills parted ways in 2006. He married for the third time, to New York businesswoman Nancy Shevell, in October 2011, in London. McCartney's interests extend far beyond music; the former Beatle has made successful forays into film, writing, painting, meditation and activism. Despite his many business ventures and interests, the most prolific Beatle, now in his 70s, continues to tour and sell out massive arenas, and isn't showing any signs of slowing down. When asked about his retirement plans, McCartney replied, in typical fashion, "Why would I retire? Sit at home and watch TV? No thanks. I'd rather be out playing."

Task 5. HOMEWORK (Student 2)

Read the text about **John Lennon** and watch the video at video at

<http://www.biography.com/people/john-lennon-9379045> and highlight any interesting facts, take notes, and get ready to report to other students what you have read about in your next lesson.

Synopsis

John Lennon was born on October 9, 1940, in Liverpool, England. He met Paul McCartney in 1957 and invited McCartney to join his music group. They eventually formed the most successful songwriting partnership in musical history. Lennon left the Beatles in 1969 and later released albums with his wife, Yoko Ono, among others. On December 8, 1980, he was killed by a crazed fan named Mark David Chapman.

Early Life

Famed singer-songwriter John Winston Lennon was born on October 9, 1940, in Liverpool, Merseyside, England, during a German air raid in World War II. When he was 4 years old, Lennon's parents separated and he ended up living with his Aunt Mimi. Lennon's father was a merchant seaman. He was not present at his son's birth and did not see a lot of his son when he was small. Lennon's mother, Julia, remarried, but visited him and Mimi regularly. She taught Lennon how to play the banjo and the piano and purchased his first guitar. Lennon was devastated when Julia was fatally struck by a car driven by an off-duty police officer in July 1958. Her death was one of the most traumatic events in his life.

As a child, Lennon was a prankster and he enjoyed getting in trouble. As a boy and young adult, he enjoyed drawing grotesque figures and cripples. Lennon's school master thought that he could go to an art school for college, since he did not get good grades in school, but had artistic talent.

Forming the Beatles

Elvis Presley's explosion onto the rock music scene inspired a 16-year-old Lennon to create the skiffle band called the Quarry Men, named after his school. Lennon met Paul McCartney at a church fete on July 6, 1957. He soon invited McCartney to join the group, and the two eventually formed one of the most successful songwriting partnerships in musical history. McCartney introduced George Harrison to Lennon the following year, and Harrison and art college buddy Stuart Sutcliffe also joined Lennon's band. Always in need of a drummer, the group finally settled on Pete Best in 1960.

The first recording they made was Buddy Holly's "That'll be the Day" in 1958. In fact, it was Holly's group, the Crickets, that inspired the band to change its name. Lennon would later joke that he had a vision when he was 12 years old—a man appeared on a flaming pie and said unto them, "From this day on, you are Beatles with an 'A.'"

The Beatles were discovered by Brian Epstein in 1961 at Liverpool's Cavern Club, where they were performing on a regular basis. As their new manager, Epstein secured a record contract with EMI. With a new drummer, Ringo Starr (Richard Starkey), and George Martin as producer, the group released their first single, "Love Me Do," in October 1962. It peaked on the British charts at No. 17.

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Lennon wrote the group's follow-up single, "Please Please Me," inspired primarily by Roy Orbison, but also fed by Lennon's infatuation with the pun in Bing Crosby's famous lyrics, "Oh, please, lend your little ears to my pleas," from the song "Please." The Beatles' "Please Please Me" topped the charts in Britain. The Beatles went on to become the most popular band in Britain with the release of such mega-hits as "She Loves You" and "I Want To Hold Your Hand."

Lennon married Cynthia Powell in August 1962. The couple had one son together, Julian, who was named after Lennon's mother. Cynthia was forced to keep a very low profile during Beatlemania. She and Lennon divorced in 1968. He remarried the following year, on March 20, 1969, to Japanese avant-garde artist Yoko Ono, whom he had met at the Indica Gallery in November 1966.

Beatlemania

In 1964, the Beatles became the first British band to break out big in the United States, beginning with their appearance on television's *The Ed Sullivan Show* on February 9, 1964. Beatlemania launched a "British Invasion" of rock bands in the United States that also included the Rolling Stones and the Kinks. Following their appearance on *Sullivan*, the Beatles returned to Britain to film their first film, *A Hard Day's Night* (1964), and prepare for their first world tour. The Beatles' second film, *Help!*, was released in 1965. That June, Queen Elizabeth II of England announced that the Beatles would be named a Member of the Order of the British Empire. In August 1965, the foursome performed to 55,600 fans at New York's Shea Stadium, setting a new record for largest concert audience in musical history. When the Beatles returned to England, they recorded the breakthrough album *Rubber Soul* (1965), noted for extending beyond the love songs and pop formulas for which the band was previously well-known.

The magic of Beatlemania had begun to lose its appeal by 1966. The band members' lives were put in danger when they were accused of snubbing the presidential family in the Philippines. Then, Lennon's remark that the band was "more popular than Jesus now" incited denunciations and Beatles record bonfires in the U.S. Bible belt. The Beatles gave up touring after an August 29, 1966, concert at San Francisco's Candlestick Park.

After an extended break, the band returned to the studio to expand their experimental sound with drug-influenced exotic instrumentation/lyrics and tape abstractions. The first sample was the single "Penny Lane/Strawberry Fields Forever," followed by the album *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* (1967), considered by many to be the greatest rock project in musical history.

The Beatles Break Up

The Beatles then suffered a huge blow when Epstein died of an accidental overdose of sleeping pills on August 27, 1967. Shaken by Epstein's death, the Beatles retrenched under McCartney's leadership in the fall and filmed *Magical Mystery Tour*. While the film was panned by critics, the soundtrack album contained Lennon's "I Am The Walrus," the group's most cryptic work yet. *Magical Mystery Tour* failed to achieve much commercial success, and the Beatles retreated into Transcendental Meditation and the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, which took them to India for two months in early 1968. Their next effort, Apple Corps Ltd., was plagued by mismanagement. That July, the group faced its last notably hysterical crowd at the premiere of their film *Yellow Submarine*. In November 1968, the Beatles' double-album *The Beatles* (also known as *The White Album*) displayed their divergent directions.

By this time, Lennon's artist partnership with second wife Yoko Ono had begun to cause serious tensions within the group. Lennon and Ono invented a form of peace protest by staying in bed while being filmed and interviewed,

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and their single "Give Peace a Chance" (1969), recorded under the name "the Plastic Ono Band," became a national anthem of sorts for pacifists.

Lennon left the Beatles in September 1969, just after the group completed recording *Abbey Road*. The news of the break-up was kept secret until McCartney announced his departure in April 1970, a month before the band released *Let It Be*, recorded just before *Abbey Road*.

Solo Career

Not long after the Beatles broke up, in 1970, Lennon released his debut solo album, *John Lennon/Plastic Ono Band*, featuring a raw, minimalist sound that followed "primal-scream" therapy. He followed that project with 1971's *Imagine*, the most commercially successful and critically acclaimed of all Lennon's post-Beatles efforts. The title track was later named No. 3 on *Rolling Stone* magazine's "All-Time Best Songs" list. Peace and love, however, was not always on Lennon's agenda. *Imagine* also included the track "How Do You Sleep?," a vehement response to veiled messages at Lennon in some of McCartney's solo recordings. The friends and former songwriting duo later buried the hatchet, but never formally worked together again.

Lennon and Ono moved to the United States in September 1971, but were constantly threatened with deportation by the Nixon Administration. Lennon was told that he was being kicked out of the country due to his 1968 marijuana conviction in Britain, but the singer believed that he was being removed because of his activism against the unpopular Vietnam War. Documents later proved him correct. (Two years after Nixon resigned, in 1976, Lennon was granted permanent U.S. residency.)

In 1972, while battling to stay in America, Lennon performed at Madison Square Garden in New York City to benefit mentally handicapped children and continued to promote peace. His immigration battle took a toll on Lennon's marriage, and in the fall of 1973, he and Ono separated. Lennon went to Los Angeles, California, where he partied and took a mistress, May Pang. He still managed to release hit albums, including *Mind Games* (1973), *Walls and Bridges* (1974) and *Rock 'n' Roll* (1975). During this time, Lennon famously collaborated with David Bowie and Elton John.

Lennon and Ono reconciled in 1974, and she gave birth to their only child, a son named Sean, on Lennon's 35th birthday (October 9, 1975). Shortly thereafter, Lennon decided to leave the music business to focus on being a father and husband.

Tragic Death

In 1980, John Lennon returned to the music world with the album *Double Fantasy*, featuring the hit single "(Just Like) Starting Over." Tragically, just a few weeks after the album's release, Lennon was shot several times by a deranged fan in front of his apartment complex in New York City. Lennon died at New York City's Roosevelt Hospital on December 8, 1980, at the age of 40. John Lennon's assassination had, and continues to have, a profound impact on pop culture. Following the tragic event, millions of fans worldwide mourned as record sales soared. And Lennon's untimely death still evokes deep sadness around the globe today, as he continues to be admired by new generations of fans. Lennon was posthumously inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1987, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1994.

Task 5. HOMEWORK (Student 3)

Read the text about **Ringo Starr** and watch the video at <http://www.biography.com/people/ringo-starr-306872> and highlight any interesting facts, take notes, and get ready to report to other students what you have read about in your next lesson.

Synopsis

Born Richard Starkey on July 7, 1940, in Liverpool, England, Ringo Starr, known for his easy-going personality, rose to fame in the early 1960s as a member of the legendary rock group the Beatles. Known for his role as drummer, Starr also sang and wrote songs for the group, singing "With a Little Help from My Friends" and writing "Octopus's Garden."

Early Life

Musician, singer, songwriter and actor Ringo Starr was born Richard Starkey on July 7, 1940, in Liverpool, England. Known for his easy-going personality, Starr first rose to fame in the early 1960s as the drummer for the legendary rock group the Beatles. He grew up poor in Liverpool, and his father left the family when Starr was only three. A sickly child, he missed a lot of school on account of his illnesses. Starr eventually dropped out as a teenager.

Starr started his musical career playing percussion in a skiffle band, or a band that used common objects instead of regular instruments. His stepfather supported his interest in music and reportedly bought him a drum kit. Learning the drums, Starr went on to join a popular local band Rory Storm and the Hurricanes in the late 1950s. He took his nickname—Ringo—was given to him because of the rings he wore—as part of his stage name around this time. And his drum solos for the group were called "Starr-time."

The Beatles

Starr met the members of another Liverpool group, the Beatles, while both groups were playing in Hamburg, Germany, in 1960. Two years later, he was asked to join the Beatles to replace their current drummer Pete Best. Starr was soon on the fast track to success with his new bandmates Paul McCartney, John Lennon and George Harrison.

Guided in the studio by producer George Martin, the Beatles recorded their first single, "Love Me Do/P.S. I Love You," in 1962. While that song did okay, their next single "Please Please Me" made the group a pop sensation in England. Their first album together, *Please Please Me* (1963), added fuel to already growing frenzy that would soon become known as Beatlemania. Starr made a rare appearance on lead vocals for the song "Boys" on the album.

With their floppy hair and matching suits, the Beatles crossed the Atlantic Ocean to launch their own pop invasion of America in 1964. Beatlemania was in full force during their first U.S. television appearance on *The Ed Sullivan Show*. Their single, "I Want to Hold Your Hand," had already climbed to the top of the charts before the taping and was followed by a succession of hits. And throngs of screaming fans—many of which were love-struck teenagers—filled the audiences of their live shows.

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That same year, the Beatles took their music to the big screen with the humorous documentary film *A Hard Day's Night* (1964). For their next film venture, *Help!* (1965), Starr provided the vocals for "Act Naturally." Both projects gave Starr's comedic and acting talents to shine through.

The Band Breaks Up

While Lennon and McCartney were widely praised for their songwriting talents, Starr's contributions were not as readily acknowledged. He was known for his strong drumming talents, but he also assisted in the group's creative process and provided some of its emotional stability and good humor. Unlike past drummers who remained firmly in the background, Starr was seen an equal part of the Fab Four. His influence would later be seen on future generations of drummers.

In 1966, the Beatles stopped touring, giving their last concert in August at San Francisco's Candlestick Park. They continued to record together, taking their music in new directions. They created one of rock's first concept albums with *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* (1967), which was meant to be listened to in its entirety. Other commercial and critical successes, included *The Beatles* (often referred to as *The White Album*) (1968), to which Starr contributed the track "Don't Pass Me By."

By this time, personal and creative tensions began to erode the group. Starr spent some time on other projects, starring in the film *The Magic Christian* (1969) with Peter Sellers. They played their last gig together on top of the Apple Corps, Ltd building in London, in January 1969, which was filmed for the film *Let It Be* (1970). In April 1970, the Beatles ended with Paul McCartney's announcement that he was leaving the group. One of the most successful groups in popular music finished their run with more than 45 top 40 hits in the United States alone—and leaving an incalculable impression on millions of fans worldwide.

Solo Career

After the Beatles broke up in 1970, Starr pursued a solo career. His first album, *Sentimental Journey* (1970), was a collection of Tin Pan Alley tunes. For his next effort, Starr went for country with *Beaucoup of Blues* (1971). Starr found his greatest solo success with *Ringo* (1973), which featured such hits as "It Don't Come Easy," "Photograph," and "You're Sixteen."

In addition to recording, Starr was flourishing in other creative directions at this time. He directed and produced the documentary, *Born to Boogie* (1972), on influential glam rockers T-Rex. Continuing to act, Starr appeared in such films as *200 Motels* (1971), *That'll Be the Day* (1973) and *Son of Dracula* (1974). He also starred in the comedy *Caveman* (1981) with Barbara Bach, and the two soon fell in love and married.

Starr reteamed with Paul McCartney for the musical drama *Give My Regards to Broad Street* (1984). On television, he starred in two children's series as the narrator for *Thomas the Tank Engine* and later *Shining Time Station*.

On the musical front, Starr emerged as a bandleader in the late 1980s, touring with the first incarnation of his All Starr Band, which included Joe Walsh from the Eagles, Nils Lofgren and Clarence Clemmons from Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band, Rick Danko and Levon Helm from the Band, and Billy Preston and Dr. John among others. Over the years, Starr has done numerous tours with various artists under the All Starr Band banner and produced several live albums of this continuously changing and evolving collaborative project.

While he continued to produce numerous solo albums, Starr received some his strongest reviews in years for 1992's *Time Takes Time*. He also was involved with an interesting reunion with Paul McCartney and George

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Harrison in the mid-1990s. The trio worked with a demo version of the song "Free as a Bird" recorded by John Lennon in 1977 to produce a new Beatles single—the first in 25 years. Sadly, Lennon had been murdered in 1980 by a crazed assassin. The song was released in 1995 and became a top ten hit. Another Lennon song, "Real Love," was also reworked and did well on the charts in 1996. Two years later, Starr appeared on the VH1 *Storyteller* television series, sharing his music and experiences as a recording artist, which resulted in an accompanying album.

Most recently, Starr released *Liverpool 8* in 2008. As a testimony to his abilities as a songwriter, he co-wrote all of the material on the album. The recording has been heralded by some critics as an impressive comeback. Continuing to explore his career as a solo artist, Starr put out *Y Not* (2010) and *Ringo 2012*.

In 2013, Starr showed off his talent for photography. He published *Photograph*, which featured many never-seen-before images of the Beatles. According to *The Hollywood Reporter*, Starr felt that the photo book could tell the story of his life as a Beatle better than a traditional autobiography. "They only want eight years, really . . . and I did have a life before that and after that."

Personal Life

Starr has been married twice. Wed to Maureen Cox from 1965 to 1975, the couple had three children together, Zak, Jason and Lee. Zak has followed in his father's footsteps and become an accomplished drummer in his right, playing with such bands as The Who and Oasis. Starr and his friend Keith Moon, the original drummer for The Who, had encouraged his interest from an early age. Starr and his second wife Barbara Bach have been married since 1981.

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Task 5. HOMEWORK (Student 4)

Read the text about **George Harrison** and watch the video at <http://www.biography.com/people/george-harrison-9206804> and highlight any interesting facts, take notes, and get ready to report to other students what you have read about in your next lesson.

Synopsis

Born on February 25, 1943, in Liverpool, England, George Harrison formed a band with schoolmates to play clubs around Liverpool and in Hamburg, Germany. The Beatles became the biggest rock band in the world, and Harrison's diverse musical interests took them in many directions. Post-Beatles, Harrison made acclaimed solo records and started a film production company. He died of cancer in November 2001.

Early Life

Pop star, songwriter, recording artist and producer George Harrison was born on February 25, 1943, in Liverpool, England. The youngest of Harold and Louise French Harrison's four children, George played lead guitar and sometimes sang lead vocals for the Beatles.

Like his future bandmates, Harrison was not born into wealth. Louise was largely a stay-at-home mom (who also taught ballroom dancing), while her husband Harold drove a school bus for the Liverpool Institute, an acclaimed grammar school that George attended and where he first met Paul McCartney. By his own admission, Harrison was not much of a student, and what little interest he did have in his studies washed away with his discovery of the electric guitar and American rock and roll.

As Harrison would later describe it, he had an "epiphany" of sorts at the age 12 or 13 while riding a bike around his neighborhood and getting his first whiff of Elvis Presley's "Heartbreak Hotel," which was playing from a nearby house. By the age of 14, Harrison, whose early rock heroes included Carl Perkins, Little Richard and Buddy Holly, had purchased his first guitar and taught himself a few chords.

Forming the Beatles

Impressed with his younger friend's talents, Paul McCartney, who had recently joined up with another Liverpool teenager, John Lennon, in a skiffle group known as the Quarrymen, invited Harrison to see the band perform. Harrison and Lennon actually shared some common history. Both had attended Dovedale Primary School, but oddly had never met. Their paths finally crossed in early 1958. McCartney had been pushing the 17-year-old Lennon to let the 14-year-old Harrison join the band, but Lennon was reluctant to let the youngster team up with them. As legend has it, after seeing McCartney and Lennon perform, George was finally granted an audition on the upper deck of a bus, where he wowed Lennon with his rendition of popular American rock riffs.

By 1960 Harrison's music career was in full swing. Lennon had renamed the band the Beatles, and the young group began cutting their rock teeth in the small clubs and bars around Liverpool and Hamburg, Germany. Within two years, the group had a new drummer, Ringo Starr, and a manager, Brian Epstein, a young record-store owner who eventually landed the Beatles a contract with EMI's Parlophone label.

Before the end of 1962, Harrison and the Beatles recorded a top 20 U.K. hit, "Love Me Do." Early that following year, another hit, "Please Please Me," was churned out, followed by an album of the same name. Beatlemania was in full swing across England, and by early 1964, with the release of their album in the United States and an American tour, it had swept across the Atlantic as well.

'The Quiet Beatle'

Largely referred to as the "quiet Beatle" Harrison took a backseat to McCartney, Lennon and, to a certain extent, Starr. Still, he could be quick-witted, even edgy. During the middle of one American tour, the group members were asked how they slept at night with long hair. "How do you sleep with your arms and legs still attached?" Harrison fired back.

From the start, the Beatles were a Lennon-McCartney driven band and brand. But while the two took up much of the group's songwriting responsibilities, Harrison had shown an early interest in contributing his own work. In the summer of 1963 he spearheaded his first song, "Don't Bother Me," which made its way on to the group's second album, *With the Beatles*. From there on out, Harrison's songs were a staple of all Beatles records. In fact, some of the group's more memorable songs, such as *While My Guitar Gently Weeps* and *Something*—the latter of which was recorded by more than 150 other artists, including Frank Sinatra—were penned by Harrison.

The Beatles Experience

Teachers' Notes

These activities have been designed to be used before the workshops as introduction and as follow up later. While the workshop concentrates on the music, the movement, and the encounter using biodanza techniques, in class (or for homework) students can work on the theme, read about the Beatles and do some language work, as well as learn the lyrics of the songs.

You can work on the band related materials with the whole class (Tasks 1,2,3,4).

This can be followed by Task 5, with students divided into 4 groups, with each group reading the text about a different Beatle e.g. person 1 Paul McCartney, 2 John Lennon, 3.... In the lesson following the homework students can get into new groups (1 + 2 + 3 + 4) and they can swap information about 'their' members of the band.

You are being provided with the copy of the websites texts but it may be easier to just give the websites address to the students and they can watch the video and read the text on line.

While in class working on Task 1,2,3 and 4, tell the students that they should not worry about vocabulary when working on Task 5, and should just get the general understanding of the text and the video.

Additionally – in the classroom or as a homework, listen and learn to sing songs by The Beatles:

Penny lane <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1FIQCtg96SQ>

When I am 64 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JCXAanidsLA>

Can't buy me love <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZALQ29dtITk>

Ooh Baby (George Harrison) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DPQLHrm7_5M lyrics:
<http://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/georgeharrison/oohbabyyouknowthatiloveyou.html>

My sweet lord <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xBVAoc5uzEM>