

BEYOND THE BOOTH

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF HIP-HOP

A RESOURCE GUIDE CURATED BY **RHYMES WITH REASON**

THE SCENE: IT'S AUGUST 11TH, 1973 IN THE BRONX.

Clive Campbell hosts a back-to-school party with his sister Cindy in their apartment building's rec room.

As anticipated, everyone has a great time dancing to the familiar tunes of James Brown and Aretha... and then? The beat drops.

Behind the turntables, Clive--now better known as DJ Kool Herc--spins two of the same album in the merry-go-round technique. Moving back and forth, from one record to the next, the DJ loops the percussion portions of each to keep the beat bouncing.

And with that, in this casual gathering of young creatives?

HIP-HOP IS BORN.

As our team discussed the magnitude of Hip-Hop's 50th as a team, one conversation kept recurring:

THE WAYS IN WHICH HIP-HOP INTERSECTED WITH OUR EDUCATION...

...especially as it pertains to language development and reading comprehension.

*"Hip-hop has definitely required me to become a close, patient reader, and to learn to pick up on implicit suggestions or connections. There's a lot going on... beat selection, diction, cadence, entendre, and timing that can inform listeners about deeper meaning, but you have to be willing to search for those clues and give tracks more than one listen... digesting songs in that way certainly gave me some **tools to engage with texts effectively in school.**"*

- Jabril King-Mahdi,
Rhymes With Reason Content Developer



THE PLAYLIST



As you celebrate this momentous occasion for music in your classroom, leverage our ed-tech's 'Hip-Hop at 50' playlist to further discover this genre's educational value. The short demo lesson dives into five terms; learn to use Ubiquitous from Mos Def & Talib Kweli, Culture from DJ Khaled & Nas, & more.

[Click to learn!](#)





HIP-HOP AT 50

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EVERYBODY, EVERYBODY GET YOUR READ ON

All around the country, libraries are going lyrical in celebration of hip-hop's 50th. From picture book collections to reads for adults, and book clubs to beat-making workshops, check out these materials...

Curated by New York Public Library: 50 Books for 50 Years of Hip-Hop

<https://www.nypl.org/books-more/recommendations/hip-hop/adults>

More Public Libraries Promoting Hip-Hop

Oakland Public Library - <https://oaklandlibrary.org/hip-hop-50/>

New York Public Library - <https://www.nypl.org/spotlight/hip-hop-50>

Queens Library - <https://hiphop50.queenslibrary.org/>

Free Library of Philadelphia - <http://libwww.freelibrary.org/blog/post/5097>

Los Angeles County Library - <https://lacountylibrary.org/hip-hop-history/>

Chicago Public Library - <https://www.chipublib.org/blogs/post/happy-50th-birthday-hip-hop/>

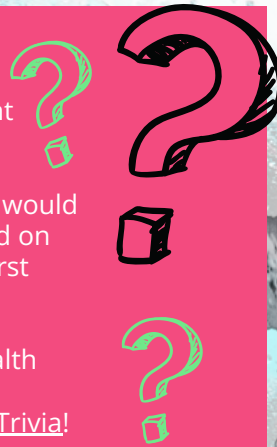
St. Louis County Library - <https://www.slcl.org/news/50th-anniversary-hip-hop-celebration>

TRIVIA TIME

Hip-hop's origins go back to 1973, and the first entertainment network dedicated to Black culture began not long after.

BET began elevating Black voices and experiences in 1980. It would go on to become the the first Black controlled company listed on the New York Stock Exchange, and the founder named the first African American billionaire.

Today, BET's network and corresponding website offer a wealth of information about hip-hop's origins. For teachers looking for quick Q&A resources, check out their new [Daily Hip-Hop Trivia!](#)



"I fell in love with hip-hop as a 7 year old listening to 50 Cent's 'Get Rich or Die Trying' CD. For some reason, my dad who is a jazz musician had that CD, and here we are today; I founded a whole company built around hip-hop."

-Rhymes With Reason
Founder & CEO
Austin Martin, M.Ed.
on hip-hop
entrepreneurship



I'M A BUSINESS, MAN

Rhymes With Reason offers playlists with vocabulary that not only lend depth to discussions you might have on the reach of hip-hop as a multi-billion dollar industry, but can teach your students to be good stewards of money, power and influence as they rise into adulthood. Avoid 'Mo Money, Mo Problems' with our Young CEO and Workforce Development Playlists, then check out the Young Changemaker module as you talk with students about the myriad of ways musicians and other professionals can give back.

[View playlists](#)

