

WORDS

- **although** = while
- **appearance** = here: to be a guest in a show
- **billion** = a thousand million
- **break up** = to stop making music together
- **cancer** = a very serious disease in which cells in your body start to grow in an uncontrolled way
- **drum** = an instrument you must hit with a stick
- **fab** = short word for “fabulous”
- **immediate** = quick, at once
- **including** = something that is part of a larger group
- **influence** = to affect the way someone develops
- **lead guitar** = the guitar that plays the melody
- **lyrics** = the text of a song
- **mass panic** = many people become hysterical; they cry and scream
- **melodic** = something that sounds good in your ears
- **owner** = someone who possesses or has something
- **perform** = sing
- **personality** = character, qualities that someone has
- **poetic** = full of feeling
- **popular** = liked by many people
- **pursue** = go after, follow
- **quarrel** = argue, fight with words
- **record** = a round piece of plastic with a hole in the middle on which music is stored; people bought music on them before it was stored on CDs
- **release** = to bring out
- **reunion** = to get together and play again
- **society** = people in general
- **success** = victory, winner
- **tour** = to give concerts in a country or area
- **towards** = near

The Beatles were one of the most famous rock and pop groups in history. The “**Fab Four**”, as the Beatles were called, came from Liverpool, England. Most of the songs were written by John Lennon and Paul McCartney. George Harrison played the **lead guitar** and Ringo Starr played **drums**. In the past 50 years the Beatles have sold over a **billion records** and CDs. They had more number one hits than any other British pop group.

Towards the end of the 1950s John Lennon formed a group called the “**Quarrymen**”. Up to 1960 they changed their names a few times but finally called themselves the Beatles. In the early phase the Beatles were **influenced** by American rock and roll musicians like Chuck Berry and Elvis Presley. In 1961 a Liverpool record store **owner**, Brian Epstein, became their manager. The first hit single *Love Me Do* became an **immediate success**. Teenagers all over England went crazy when they saw and heard the new stars, not only because of the music but because of their **personality** and new hairstyle.

In 1964 the Beatles **toured** the United States for the first time. A TV **appearance** in the legendary *Ed Sullivan Show*, one of the most **popular** TV shows at that time, made them stars at once. Thousands of young Americans went to the concerts and **mass panic** broke out wherever the Beatles appeared. *Beatlemania* was born.

In the middle of 1960s the Beatles started changing their music. It became more **poetic**, **melodic** and meaningful. Lennon and McCartney started to write **lyrics** about many of **society’s** problems. The Beatles also started to experiment with electronic music and other instruments. In 1966 they played their last concert and concentrated on making music in a studio.

Although the second part of the 1960s was very successful and the Beatles **released** a number of hit singles, **including** *Hey Jude*, *Let It Be* or *Get Back*, the members of the band started to **quarrel** and **pursue** their own interests. In 1970 they finally **broke up** after 8 successful years. All of the Beatles started solo careers: John Lennon sang with his wife Yoko Ono, Paul McCartney started a new group called the *Wings*. Ringo Starr and George Harrison also began to sing alone.

Fans around the world hoped for a **reunion** of the “**Fab Four**” but when John Lennon was shot to death by a fanatic outside his apartment in New York in 1980 the world knew that the Beatles would never **perform** together again. George Harrison died of **cancer** in 2001.

Even though their active career only lasted for a short time the legendary Beatles still live on in the hearts of millions of pop music fans around the world.



The Beatles : John Lennon (upper left) Paul McCartney (upper right) George Harrison (lower left) Ringo Starr (lower right)

THE
BEATLES