

THE HIP HOP HANDBOOK

STUDY GUIDE



A Brief Introduction to Hip Hop

Hip Hop or Hip-Hop is an artistic culture that originated in urban communities during the 1970's in New York City. DJ Afrika Bambaataa outlined the four pillars of Hip hop Culture as Emceeing, DJing, BBoying, and graffiti writing.

- **Emceeing** refers to spoken or chanted rhyming lyrics and it is a primary ingredient in Hip Hop music.
- **DJing** refers to a disc jockey who is a person that selects and plays recorded music for an audience.
- **Bboying** is a dance consisting of four primary elements: toprock, downrock, power moves and freezes. It is danced to both hip hop and other genres of music that are often remixed to prolong the musical breaks.
- **Graffiti Writing** is the name for images or lettering scratched, scrawled, painted or marked in any manner on property.

The DJ



Scratch Names

Baby Scratch - The simplest scratch form, it is performed with the scratching hand only, moving the record back and forth in continuous movements while the crossfader is in the open position. Created by Grand Wizard Theodore.

Transformer Scratch - with the crossfader closed, the record is moved with the scratching hand while periodically "tapping" the crossfader open and immediately closing it again. Created by DJ Jazzy Jeff.

Scribble Scratch - The scribble scratch is performed without the crossfader, and is performed by tensing the forearm muscles of the scratching hand and rapidly jiggling the record back and forth.



Kool Herc

Clive Campbell a.k.a. **Kool Herc** was born in Kingston, Jamaica but moved to the Bronx, New York in 1967. While growing up, he saw and heard the sound systems of neighborhood parties called dancehalls, and the accompanying speech of their DJs, known as toasting. Kool Herc is credited with originating hip hop music in the Bronx, New York City. Using the two turntable set-up of the disco DJs, Kool Herc's style led to the use of two copies of the same record to elongate the break. This breakbeat DJing, using hard funk, rock, and records with Latin percussion, formed the basis of hip hop music. Kool Herc's announcements and exhortations to dancers helped lead to the syncopated, rhymed spoken accompaniment now known as rapping. He called his dancers "break-boys" and "break-girls", or simply b-boys and b-girls.



Jazzy Jeff

Jeffrey Allen Townes a.k.a. **Jazzy Jeff** is best known for his early career with Will Smith as DJ Jazzy Jeff and The Fresh Prince. Jazzy Jeff also played a recurring character on the show *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air* named "Jazz", Smith's best friend on the show. Jazzy Jeff, along with DJ Cash Money, is credited with making the transformer scratch famous.



Grand Wizard Theodore

Theodore Livingston aka **Grand Wizard Theodore** is widely credited as the inventor of scratching.

The BBoy

Terminology

Toprock

A string of steps done in the standing position. This aspect incorporates various dance steps from Latin, African, Eastern European, and other cultures that have been re-appropriated.

Footwork

Done using both hands and feet for support. This aspect involves a great deal of hard work to develop techniques into a profound style. Basic 6, 7, and 8 steps will be taught alongside cc's, kickouts, and a few threads.

Drops

Movements that bring the dancer to the floor from toprock to footwork. This is done as a stylish way to make an introduction or as a transition.

Freezes

Stylish stop-action poses done to the beat of the music. These are often used to emphasize a dancer's ability to listen as well as being a statement of power at the end of a run.

Powermoves

Acrobatic moves that require momentum. Done by spinning on backs, legs, heads, and shoulders, these moves are some of the more difficult and will be taught more slowly.



Crazy Legs

Richard Colón (born January, 1966) better known as Crazy Legs is a bboy from the Bronx, New York City and a member of Rock Steady Crew. He is known for the "continuous back" move, in which the dancer spins on his upper back with the assistance of his elbow like a turtle move, but spins once then again and so on each time repeating a spin 3 to 4 times calling it continuous back spins.

Notable Bboys

Trac 2

Ken Swift

Alienness

Ivan The Urban Action Figure

El Nino

Float

K-Mel

Storm

Megus

Legacy

Bebe

Cloud

Teknyc

Easy Roc

Swift Rock

Abstrak

Roxrite

Junior

Poe One

Orko

Ynot

Respect

Hip Hop was created in the Bronx by people of varying ages. Hip Hop helped bring people of all ages, colors, and creeds together. Children played a crucial role in creating and furthering the dance and the music of Hip Hop. Respect for self and respect for others was crucial in the development of this art. Without respect people would not have been able to learn, share, and grow together.

DJ Kool Herc “Hip Hop has always been about having fun, but is also about taking responsibility. And now we have a platform to speak our minds.”

As DJ Kool Herc points out fun and responsibility go hand in hand. Hip Hop is a powerful tool, just like the human mind, and it requires us to use it responsibly even when we are having fun. The kids who created bboying were having fun dancing to music. And they created a dance that has spread across the globe and changed many, many lives. However, this could not have been done without respect.

The music of Hip Hop is very important. In order to fully understand what Hip Hop is you must step outside of what you see on TV and in movies. The media shows a skewed version of Hip Hop and often sends the wrong message to kids. Hip Hop is not about how much money you make, it is not about degradation or humiliation. Hip Hop is about uplifting people. The true tale of Hip Hop tells a story of courage, ingenuity, love, and respect. It is a story of how people came together and made something out of nothing, learning about themselves and bettering themselves in the process.

Without self-respect and respect for others none of this would have been possible.

Study Questions

What does Hip Hop mean to you?

After reading the Study Guide, how has your perception or feelings about Hip Hop changed?

What role does respect play in Hip Hop and what can you learn from the example set by Hip Hop's early pioneers?

After reading the Study Guide, How can you use Hip Hop to better yourself, others, and your community?

What type of positive change can Hip Hop bring to our community, country, and world?

Test Your Hip Hop History

Where did Hip Hop arise?

What role does the DJ have in a party?

Name three essential pieces of equipment a DJ needs in order to function properly:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Name three notable bboys:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Who created the baby scratch?

Name the four elements of Hip Hop:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

During what period of time did Hip Hop arise?

Name your favorite emcee.