

THE HISTORY OF PUNK ROCK

Punk rock began in New York, around 1976. Punk wasn't just a new type of music, it was a new style and a new attitude. American groups like the New York Dolls and Television had strange hair, they wore strange clothes, and they did strange things, for example vomiting in front of photographers!

The first punk groups were from New York but in 1977 London became the centre of the punk world with the creation of the Sex Pistols. Their vocalist, Johnny Rotten, was the hero of a new generation, a generation of teenagers who wanted to rebel. The Sex Pistols' songs attacked the Queen, the government and all of society in general. Some people say that punk music wasn't very good but that was part of the message. The message was that you don't need to play an instrument well to be in a band, you just need to have something to say.

What about punk today? Johnny Rotten now calls himself by his real name, John Lydon. He's 50, he appears on reality shows on TV and his punk days are behind him. But there are a lot of modern punk groups like Green Day, Rancid and Blink 182, and even pop groups like McFly have a punk element in their clothes, attitude and musical style. Punk isn't dead!

From: *Result3*, activity book – MacMillan, p.17.

Answer the following questions

1. Who were the New York Dolls and Television?
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2. How did they attract attention?
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3. Why was London important in 1977?
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4. Who was Johnny Rotten?
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5. What was one of the messages of punk?
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6. Who is John Lydon? What do you know about him?
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7. Who did the Sex Pistols' songs attack?
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8. Does punk rock still exist?
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9. Can you mention any modern punk group?
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10. Which is your favourite band? Do you remember a song?
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