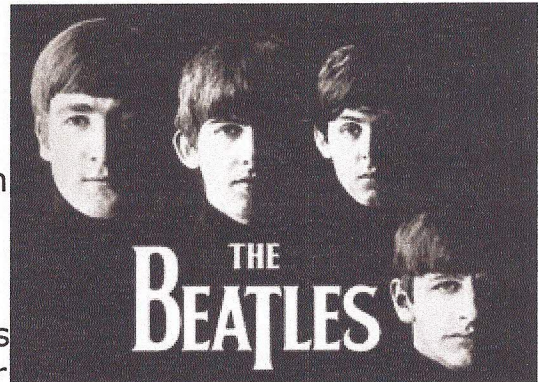


The BEATLES were an English rock band, formed in Liverpool in 1960, and one of the most commercially successful and critically acclaimed acts in the history of popular music. From 1962 the group consisted of John Lennon (rhythm guitar, vocals), Paul McCartney (bass guitar, vocals), George Harrison (lead guitar, vocals) and Ringo Starr (drums, vocals). The nature of their enormous popularity emerged as "Beatlemania" and their songs were considered the embodiment of ideals of the social and cultural revolutions of the 1960s.



On Wednesday 24th October 1962, *Love Me Do*, entered the British Top Thirty. It was their first single and they were an unknown group from Liverpool. However, the road to success was not always easy. John and Paul had spent many afternoons listening to American stars like Chuck Berry and Elvis Presley before they were able to write famous songs. Although the long evenings spent playing in hot nightclubs in Liverpool and Hambourg in Germany had not earned them much money, they found the experience very useful when playing to huge audiences later on. George Martin, their record producer, encouraged them to introduce all kinds of unusual instruments on their record and combined popular and classical styles in a new and original way. During the 1960s the Beatles were always in the news headlines; films, world tours and sometimes scandal. John once suggested that the Beatles were better known than Jesus Christ. This caused hundreds of young Americans to burn their Beatle records. After a decade of successful music and films, the Beatles finally decided to break up in 1970. Although many fans hoped there would be a reunion, this became impossible with the tragic murder of John Lennon in New York in 1980.

(From: Wikipedia and *Spotlight in Britain*, OUP, 1988)

Questions

1. When and where was the group born?
2. Who played the drums?
3. What was the "beatlemania"?
4. What was their first single?
5. Did they make big concerts in early 1960s?
6. What kind of music did they perform?
7. When did they break up?
8. Where did John Lennon die?
9. Can you mention any Beatles' songs?
10. Do you think they would have big success today?
11. Why?/Why not?

Tip :-) ... if you can, go to youtube.com and watch some videos from The Beatles! Pay attention to their personal styles, hair, body postures, voices, audiences... and songs!