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## Group 6: Skiffle Music

Imagine your group is helping one of the Beatles write his autobiography. You will work in small groups and use your knowledge of history to help the Beatle you choose enrich his book. Here are the guidelines:

- Below you will see your assigned historical term. Each group has a different term from a different period in your subject's life.
- You also have received sources related to that term.
- Use this information to help your chosen Beatle write a paragraph of 3-5 sentences for his autobiography.
- Your sentences should connect his life to the term and use first person. For example, "I remember watching the ships come into the Liverpool docks."
- Write on the board or a large piece paper large enough for the whole class to read.
- Share sentences with the class.
- As the other groups share their paragraphs, copy the story in your "Autobiography of a Beatle" handout.

### **Term: Skiffle**

Skiffle is a type of country-folk music that was first played in the United States but later become popular in postwar Britain. Skiffle is played on improvised instruments such as washboards, kazoos and other homemade instruments. It was popularized in Britain by Lonnie Donegan, who had a string of hits both in Britain and the United States. Skiffle was extremely popular in 1950s Liverpool. John Lennon formed a Skiffle band in 1957 called the Quarrymen and was soon joined by Paul McCartney, forming the basis of the band that would go on to become the Beatles.

**Source 1: Video clip of Lonnie Donegan singing "Wabash Cannonball"**

**Source 2: Video of Gerry Marsden of the band Gerry and the Pacemakers discussing Lonnie Donegan and Skiffle**

**Source 3: Video of Graham Nash (of the band Crosby, Stills, and Nash) discussing Skiffle music and Liverpool**