



Questions for Viewing Stations

Use these questions to guide your discussion with your partner as you view each station. Be sure to write down your answers to help you write your music review in the second part of this lesson.

Station 1: Heavy Metal's Early Influences – Hard Rock

Link Wray:

1. How would you describe the guitar sound in this song?
2. Given its time (1958), why might have this song been banned by radio stations?

The Kinks:

1. What elements of distortion do you hear in the Kinks' song?
2. What repetition do you notice?

Marshall Amplifiers/Jimi Hendrix:

1. According to the narrator, why is the Marshall amplifier considered “the Heavy Metal amplifier”?
2. What happens when Jimi Hendrix puts his guitar up against the amplifier?
3. How does the performance in the video contribute to the sound the guitar is making?
4. What do you notice about the use of volume in this video?

Led Zeppelin:

1. What distortion do you notice in this song?
2. Do you hear any repetition in the guitar part?
3. What do you notice about the singing? What is its tone? Loud or soft? Sweet or sour? What other words can you use to describe it?

Jimi Hendrix:

1. How would you describe the overall sound of the song? What distortion do you notice?
2. How would you describe the sound of Hendrix' guitar? How would you describe his style of playing? Do you hear any discordant notes at the beginning of the song?

Station 2: The Working Class Roots of Heavy Metal

1. According to the excerpts from the book *Heavy Metal: The Music and Its Culture*, what kind of people were creating or listening to Heavy Metal? How is Heavy Metal related to rebelliousness
2. Tommy Iommi (of the Heavy Metal band Black Sabbath) is said to have changed the way he played his guitar following a factory accident that sliced the tips off of two of his fingers. Aside from using plastic tips to play, Iommi lowered the pitch of his guitar, making it easier to press down the strings. How do you think this might have changed the sound of the guitar?
3. Heavy Metal bands Black Sabbath and Judas Priest are both from Birmingham, England. According to the documents in Station 2, how might these bands' geographic origins have influenced their music? How might growing up in a factory town influence a band's music or what they choose to write about?

Station 3: Influence of Blues on Heavy Metal

1. How does Greg Ginn of Black Flag describe the first Black Sabbath album? What evidence is there that Black Sabbath and other early Heavy Metal bands had roots in the Blues?
2. What do you notice about the highlighted tracks in Station 3? What might this tell you about each Heavy Metal band's early music?

Station 4: Images from Birmingham

1. Based on these images, what do you think it might have been like to grow up in Birmingham in the 1950s and 1960s?
2. What role do you think social class or nationality might play in the creation of music?

Additional Notes