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## Discussion Questions for Grunge

Working with your group, use the questions below for help in writing a three-paragraph review of early Grunge music. Your review should include specific information from all sources (video clips, pictures, articles, quotes, etc.) in the lesson.

1. What musical influences did Punk and Heavy Metal have on Grunge (for example, in its overall sound, instrumentation, vocal style, use of dynamics [loud and soft sounds])?
2. As you watch the videos and listen to the Grunge songs, what do they seem to be about? What ideas are the bands trying to communicate? If you could describe each song in a few words, what would they be and why?
3. Why might Grunge have resonated with teenagers in the early 1990s – particularly white, suburban youth? How might the way teens were represented in mass media, such as popular television shows, have helped lead to the rise of Grunge? What specific lyrics (and/or parts of the music video) might help explain this?
4. Why did plaid shirts become so closely associated with Grunge? What did they represent? What else about the appearance of the performers in the videos reflects the same themes?
5. What specific things about the environment in the Seattle area helped lead to the development of Grunge? What was the economic situation there in the early 1990s? What other aspects of Seattle culture and society helped influence the way Grunge looked and sounded?
6. What do Kurt Cobain's quotes suggest about the general outlook of many teenagers in the late 80s and early 90s?
7. What does Grunge music stand for? Does it stand for anything? What does the word "grunge" bring to mind? Why do you think this type of music is called Grunge? Is it an accurate label?