

MUSICAL VISIONS OF NEW YORK – a group work (part 2)

Read these biographies carefully and complete the vocabulary chart.



1. Frank Sinatra

Francis Albert "Frank" Sinatra was born on December 12, 1915, in the State of New Jersey which is just opposite New York City.

He decided to become a jazz singer after watching Bing Crosby perform. He stopped his studies and began to sing at local nightclubs.

He signed with the most popular big bands of the 1940s, pursued a successful solo career as he had an incredible collection of hit songs such as "My Way" and "New York, New York". He sold more than 250 million records worldwide, and received 11 Grammy Awards! No wonder he was

nicknamed 'The Voice'.

He also starred in 60 films, and even won an Oscar for the movie 'From Here to Eternity' in 1954.

In 1994, Sinatra performed his final live concert and he was awarded the Legend Award at the 1994 Grammy Ceremony. Frank Sinatra died in Los Angeles in 1998, aged 82.

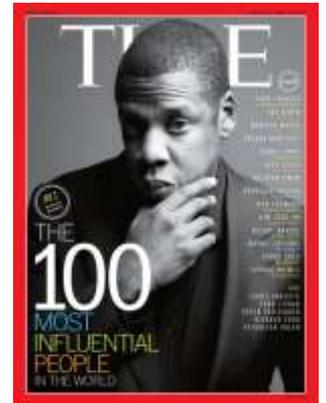
2. Jay-Z

Jay-Z – whose real name is Shawn Carter – was born on 4th December 1969 in Brooklyn, New York. He is one of the greatest rappers and he has composed some of the best hip-hop songs ever recorded. He holds the record for most number one albums by a solo artist in the USA.

He released his debut album *Reasonable Doubt* in 1996. His 1998 album *Vol. 2 Hard Knock Life* included the huge hits "Can I Get A..." and "Hard Knock Life (Ghetto Anthem)". The album won a Grammy for best rap album, and Jay-Z's 'Hard Knock Life Tour' reinforced his celebrity.

From 2004 to 2009 he was the chief executive officer of the label Def Jam Recordings, which is based in New York.

His other records as a performer include "Numb/Encore," a 2006 Grammy winner with the rock band Linkin Park. His ode to New York, "Empire State of Mind" (sung with Alicia Keys), was one of the biggest hits of 2009. Jay-Z is also the co-creator of the clothing line Rocawear and the husband of the singer Beyoncé.



3. The Ramones

The Ramones were one of the first punk bands of the 1970s. The original members of the band met in the New York City borough of Queens in 1974.

They performed in New York City nightclubs with other legendary bands such as Blondie and The Talking Heads and were among the first to get a record contract.

Their debut album, 'Ramones', released in 1976, is considered a classic of the punk genre and set the standard of short songs – rarely more than 2 minutes - delivered with raw energy. It features the Ramones most popular song, "Blitzkrieg Bop," and other classic Ramones tunes. It is pure punk, pure Ramones and pure fun.

Although The Ramones never achieved financial success, they released 21 live and studio albums and influenced many bands, from The Clash and The Sex Pistols to Green Day and The Offspring.

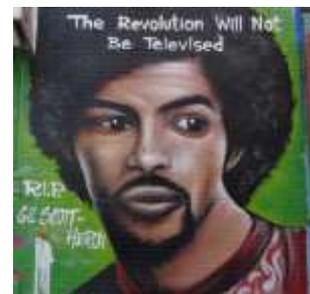


4. Gil Scott-Heron



Gil Scott-Heron was born in Chicago in 1949. He spent his early years with his grandmother, in Jackson, Tennessee. When he was 12 years old, his grandmother died and he went to live with his mother in The Bronx, New York City.

His career began in 1970 with the album which featured his most famous song "The Revolution Will Not Be Televised".



The poetry, the funky groove and the socio-political messages of these lyrics influenced the creation of hip-hop. Scott-Heron continued to record through the 1970s and early '80s.

In 2010 Scott-Heron released *I'm New Here*, his first studio album in sixteen years. It had excellent critical acclaim due to Scott-Heron's half-sung, half-spoken delivery of his poetry ('New York is Killing me' for example). He died in New York on May 27th 2011.

5. Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five:

Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five were leaders of a new era in American music. The group's leader, Joseph "Grandmaster Flash" Saddler was born on January 1, 1958, in Barbados, but was raised in the Bronx, New York.

Grandmaster Flash is one of hip hop's greatest pioneers. He revolutionized the art of DJing because he introduced many techniques used by lots of DJs worldwide. For example, he experimented the innovative turntable techniques that have become synonymous with rap and hip-hop today. You can hear them on the famous song "On the Wheels of Steel", which has an incredible beat.

Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five released the influential album *The Message* in 1982. The single "The Message" was the first rap song to detail the cruel realities of ghetto life – in Harlem for example.



THE VOCABULARY CHART

Text on Frank Sinatra		Text on Jay-Z	
chanteur		a composé <i>(i.e jusqu'à aujourd'hui)</i>	_____
se produire, jouer		chansons	
carrière solo	_____	enregistrées	
disques		a sorti (un disque, un film)	
prix, récompenses	awards	succès, tubes	
voix		maison de disques	
joua (dans un film)		un artiste, un interprète	_____
concert en public	_____	Text on Gil Scott-Heron	
on lui a remis (un prix)	_____	paroles	
Text on The Ramones		enregistrer	
groupes punk	_____	éloges, plébiscite	
boîtes de nuit		Text on Grandmaster Flash	
contrat		platine (disque)	
Il contient, il comprend	_____	rythme	
des mélodies, des airs		influent	