

Reggae - Knowledge Organiser

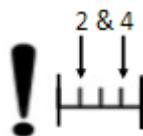
HISTORY AND CONTEXT

- Reggae emerged in the 1960s in Jamaica from mento
- Reggae is associated with Rastafarianism
- Themes in reggae music: historical slavery, poverty, hope, love and peace.



FEATURES OF REGGAE

- Slow tempo
- 4/4
- Repeated off-beat quaver accompaniment
- Verse & Chorus structure
- Reggae Instrumentation:



Lead vocals - singing a memorable melody

Backing vocals - singing responses to the lead vocals and harmonies

Electric guitar - often playing the skank

Piano - often doubling the chords played on guitar, played staccato

Organ - popular from 1970s, played chordal accompaniment

Bass guitar - playing a low, catchy bass line

Horn section (usually trumpet, saxophone & trombone) - they often play introductions and 'stabs'



REGGAE KEY TERMS

Mento	A type of Jamaican folk music originating in the 1940s - 1950s.
Rastafarianism	A religious movement formed by the descendants of former enslaved Africans in Jamaica which struggled against all oppression.
Accompaniment	Musical part that provides the rhythm and harmony to support the melody.
Off-beat	Guitar & Piano emphasise chords on beats 2 & 4 or on the second weaker quaver e.g. 1+ 2+.
Skank	The off-beat chord pattern played by guitar and piano/organ in reggae
Staccato	When notes are played short and detached.
Horn section	A small line-up of instruments, mostly always brass with sax, which play short 'interjecting' melodies in reggae.
Hammond Organ	A type of electric organ (keyboard instrument) popular in the 1970s in jazz, blues, Gospel and reggae music.