

SOCIAL STUDIES

Hip-Hop Goes Global

Related Subjects:

Economics
Language Arts

Objectives:

- o Analyze the evolution of Hip-Hop as an international force
- o Investigate the integration of Hip-Hop into a foreign culture
- o Create a report on an example of Hip-Hop in another country

Materials

- o "Japan Grows its Own" (download article from Web site)
- o NPR story on Hip-Hop in Columbia (clip is on the Web site)

Resources:

www.hiphop-directory.com/General_Hip_Hop_Sites/index.php

Introduction:

Hip-Hop no longer belongs exclusively to American culture. Nearly every country in the world now has its own Hip-Hop music, fashion, and culture. Even though many of these foreign trends take their cue from American artists, each country adds its own unique attributes and sounds. Yet because US music and culture dominates so much of the world scene, American youth tend to not fully understand how international Hip-Hop has become.

This lesson asks students to move outside of their own community and country, and investigate Hip-Hop in another culture. Aside from learning about the evolution of the music, this lesson also offers an opportunity for students to explore the history, politics, and larger cultural issues of another country.

Activity:

Have students first read the article on Hip-Hop in Japan or listen to the clip on Hip-Hop in Columbia to gain an appreciation for how the music and culture has manifested itself in other countries. Then have students, either individually or in small groups, select one country to profile. Using resources such as the Hip-Hop Directory Web site, students will research the evolution and history of Hip-Hop in that country, and will make a presentation to the class reporting back all that they have discovered. The reports should include a history and timeline of Hip-Hop in that country, as well as examples of some of the leading artists and their music.

Wherever possible, students should place Hip-Hop against the larger cultural backdrop of the country. Some sample questions include:

- o Have local musicians simply mimicked American artists or have they created their own sound?
- o How is Hip-Hop in that country different from Hip-Hop in America?
- o What elements are unique to the culture?
- o Is the music still in the underground or has it surfaced into the mainstream?
- o How has the business side evolved?
- o Have American companies been involved in the local market?