



BOB MARLEY



Timeline

1945	1955	1957-1962	1962	1963	1966	1976	1981
Born in Jamaica	His father dies of a heart attack	Moves to Kingston with his mother and starts singing with help from Joe Higgs	Bob Marley and childhood friend Neville Livingston record four songs	'Settle Down' sells 70,000 copies and they call themselves Bob Marley and the Wailers	Marley becomes a Rastafarian and begins to grow dreadlocks	After an attempt on his life, Marley moves to London, England	After falling ill, Marley makes his way back to Jamaica. He does not make it that far and dies in the U.S.A.

Key Songs

Rude Boy	1965 - A term originally from the poorer areas of Kingston, Jamaica to describe young people who had a certain style and listened to two-tone ska music.
Freedom Time	1966 - A piano-led song about civil rights.
Trenchtown Rock	1971 - A song dedicated to the Kingston neighbourhood that gave birth to reggae in which Marley grew up.
I Shot the Sheriff	1973 - This song tells the story of a man that shoots a sheriff who is harassing him but is wrongly accused of killing the deputy.
Slave Driver	1973 - A song about the 400 years of African slavery.
No Woman, No Cry	1975 - A song about women's strength written by Marley However, he put 'Vincent Ford' as the songwriter (the owner of a soup kitchen in Trenchtown, Jamaica so he would receive money to carry on doing his charitable work).
One Love / People Get Ready	1977 - A call for unity, understanding and hope in difficult political times.
Jamming	1977 - To join 'the jam' means to play music and party, although it is a celebration of survival (after the attempt on his life).
Is This Love?	1978 - A love song and how God will help with their life struggles.
Redemption Song	1980 - Marley knew he was ill and so this song was not a final farewell but his way of passing on his beliefs of hope and love to others to carry on without him.

Did You Know?



Bob Marley was an enthusiastic footballer and even supported English team Tottenham Hotspurs. He would often wear the Jamaican or Brazilian national team football shirts and play between shows or after recording.

The Importance of Bob Marley

Jamaican Reggae

Reggae is a style of music that originated from Jamaica in the 1960s. A 1968 single by Toots and the Maytals called 'Do the Reggay' helped name the genre and introduced it to the rest of the world. It was influenced by American Jazz and Blues music but also evolved from Ska music. It is instantly recognised from its offbeat rhythm. It is also linked to Rastafarianism which developed in Jamaica in the 1930s. Bob Marley was important in bringing Reggae to a worldwide audience.

Rastafarianism

Bob Marley was a Catholic but changed to Rastafarianism in 1966. Rastafarians believe in the Judeo-Christian God and call him Jah. They believe Christ came to Earth as a divine manifestation of Jah. Some Rastafarians believe that Christ was black, while many focus on Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia as the black messiah and rebirth of Christ. They believe that Ethiopia is the holy land, a Heaven on Earth where true Rastas live eternally as bodily and spiritual immortals.

Key Events

I Shot the Sheriff

Although popular at the time, British guitarist and singer Eric Clapton covered the song himself in 1974 and it reached the U.K. top 10, making Bob Marley a household name here.

One Love Peace Concert

.From 1974-1980, Jamaica suffered from political violence. In 1978, Influenced by the Rastafarian message of unity, gang leaders agreed to peace talks. After this, during the One Love Peace Concert in Kingston where Bob Marley even brought together the hands of rival party leaders on stage.

His Children

Bob Marley left many children after he died. His Son Ziggy Marley continues to write world-famous music today. One of his daughters (Cedella Marley) is a fashion designer, the CEO of Bob Marley's record label and even gave money to the Jamaican Women's football team who qualified for the world cup for the first time in 2019.