

# THE ROOTS OF HIP HOP



Est. Time: 45 minutes

Subjects: General Music, Social Studies

Age Range: Middle & High School

See the full lesson [here!](#)

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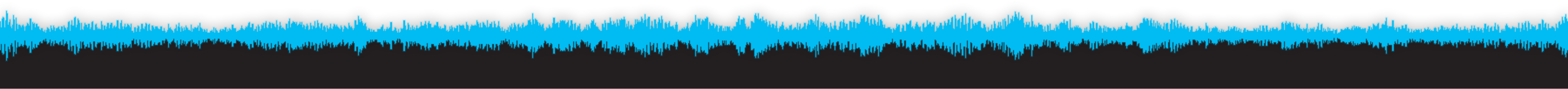
## The Historical Roots of Hip Hop

Hip Hop emerged in the 1970s but has roots in other musical and spoken word traditions including stand up comedy, Gospel and Reggae music from the Caribbean. Many Hip Hop artists including Slick Rick, Notorious B.I.G., and Cardi B were born in the Caribbean or have Caribbean ancestry. Watch [this video](#) for examples.



What are the historical roots of Hip Hop?

In this lesson you will:

- Discover where Hip Hop was first created
  - Consider what life was like for some New Yorkers in the 1970s
  - Explore the connections between Hip Hop and other musical styles
  - Learn about key Hip Hop pioneers
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## SOUTH BRONX BLOCK PARTIES

Watch [this video](#) about early Hip Hop Parties in the South Bronx, New York City.



Consider or ask a friend:

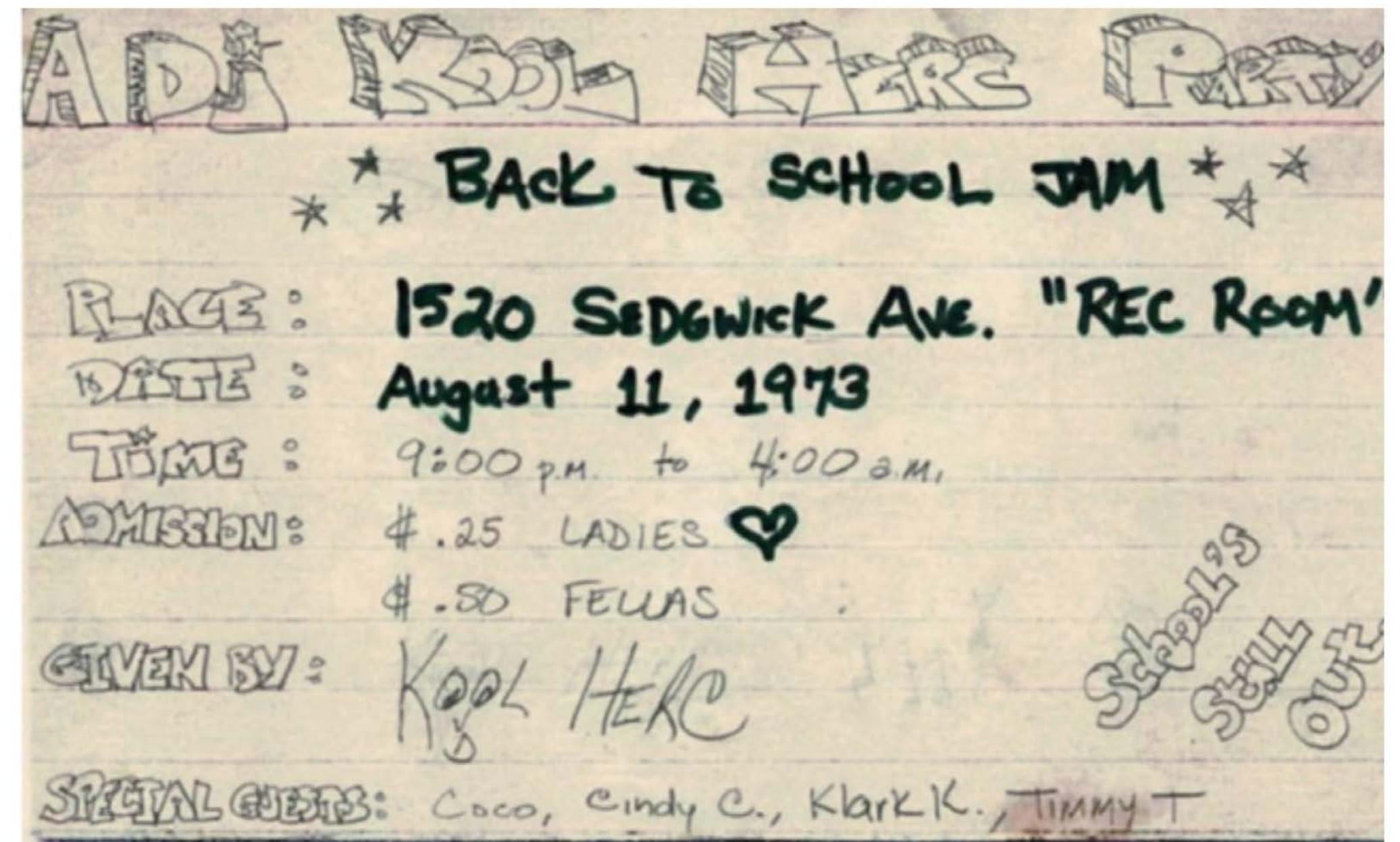
- In the 1970s, where were Hip Hop parties held in the summertime? Where did they take place in the winter?
  - How old do the people in the crowd seem to be? What are they doing?
  - Describe the clothing you see people wearing in this video.
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The five boroughs, or counties, of New York City are Brooklyn, The Bronx, Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island. In the story of how Hip Hop began, 1520 Sedgwick Avenue is the most important of the landmarks on this map.




On August 11, 1973, a party took place in the recreation center of 1520 Sedgwick Avenue in the South Bronx that some believe marks the “birth” of Hip Hop culture. The party, described as a Back to School Jam, was promoted by Cindy Campbell and her brother Clive Campbell, DJ Kool Herc, provided the music.

Watch [this video](#) and consider how Herc discusses Hip Hop, what you see while he drives, and what he has to say about the Bronx.





Consider or ask a friend:

- Do you think DJ Kool Herc is proud of being from the Bronx? Does he seem to love the Bronx? Why?
  - What do you see as DJ Kool Herc drives through the Bronx?
  - DJ Kool Herc suggests that he believes the Bronx is “in an uplift,” what do you think he means?
  - In 1977, President Jimmy Carter visited the South Bronx. What does Kool Herc say about President Carter?
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## GRANDMASTER FLASH

Watch [this short documentary](#) about Grandmaster Flash and the rise of DJing and Rapping in the Bronx.



Consider or ask a friend:

- What equipment did Grandmaster Flash use to build a new musical sound? How did he utilize this equipment in an innovative way?
  - Does it seem like it was easy for Grandmaster Flash, or something he had to practice and develop?
  - What are “the breaks” to which Grandmaster Flash is referring? What is “scratching”? What about the way Hip Hop DJs played this music made it original?
  - How does Grandmaster Flash describe the role of the Master of Ceremonies, or MC at a Hip Hop performance?
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# TEACHROCK CELEBRATES #HIPHOP50 WITH A LESSON FEATURING

**Melle Mel**

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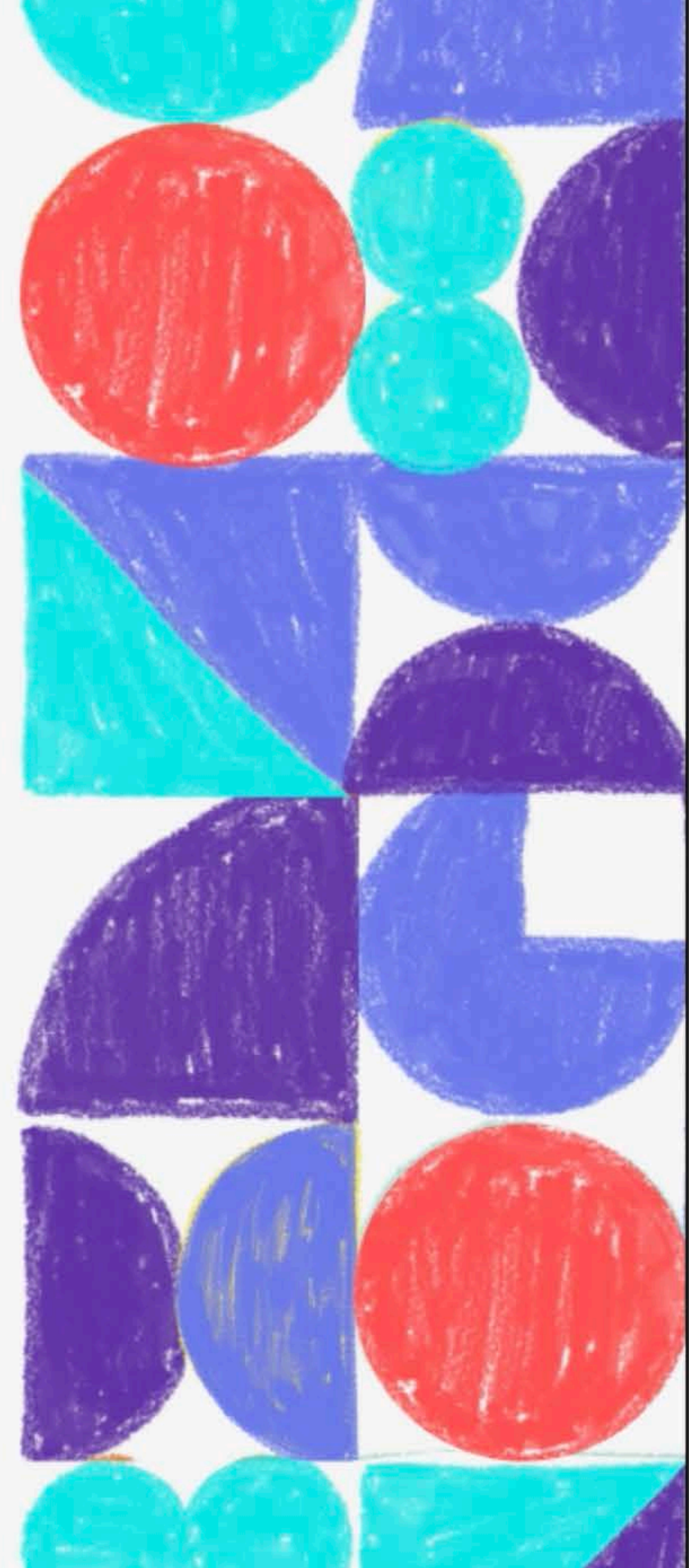
**Darryl McDaniels**

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**DJ Khaled**

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**Taboo**



## The Roots of Hip Hop

We asked recording artists to share their memories of Hip Hop. Watch [this clip](#) to hear from DJ Khaled, Darryl McDaniels (Run-D.M.C.), Melle Mel, and Taboo (Black Eyed Peas).

# SUMMARY

- Hip Hop began in the South Bronx in the early 1970s
- Many suggest the first Hip Hop event was hosted by DJ Kool Herc and his sister, Cindy Campbell at 1520 Sedgwick Avenue in 1971
- Artists such as DJ Kool Herc and Grandmaster Flash loved the Bronx and were proud of the area, as were many residents
- The earliest phase of Hip Hop Culture was established during this period as these residents gathered to dance and celebrate to the groundbreaking approaches to making music artists such as DJ Kool Herc and Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five represented

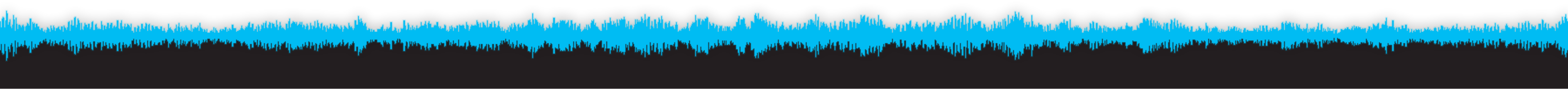


# BE CREATIVE

Since Hip Hop originated in the Bronx, the culture has been comprised of five elements: MCing or rapping (oral), DJing (aural), b-boying or dancing (physical), graffiti (visual art), and knowledge.

If you have space in your home, try [this introduction](#) to Breakdancing.

Or try an art project using [this tutorial](#) about how to draw graffiti style lettering.



# BE CREATIVE

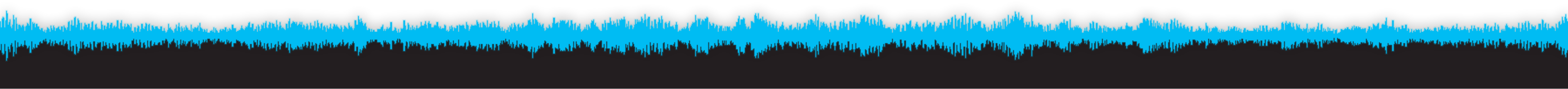
Imagine there's a Block Party planned in your neighborhood, and you have been asked to DJ with a friend. Work together to create a playlist for the event. Remember, it's not just you who will be there.

What song will your youngest family members like? How will you keep the party moving and get older people on the dance floor? Is there a song that you love that you will not include on this list out of consideration for somebody else? Tell your friend about the song and why you made the choice not to play it at your Block Party.



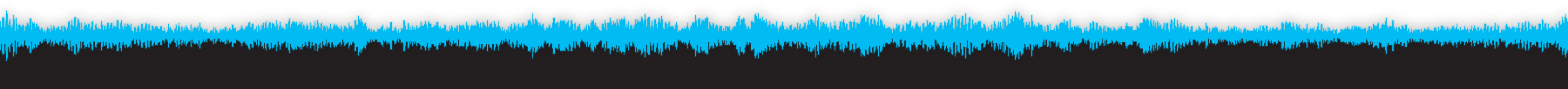
# BE CREATIVE

Create a playlist, video, or art project that represents your family, your group of friends, or your neighborhood. Feel free to work together with anyone who can contribute. What makes you proud about your people and place?



# CONNECT

Share your project with us! Either you or an adult in your life can share your playlist or art project with TeachRock on **Instagram** or **Facebook**, email to **info@teachrock.org**, or Tweet it to **@TeachRock**







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Please check back to [teachrock.org/distancelearning](https://teachrock.org/distancelearning) frequently as we will update the material daily!