

# THE ROOTS OF SURF SOUND


Est. Time: 45-90 minutes

Subjects: ELA, Social Studies, Science

Age Range: Elementary & Middle School


See the full lesson [here!](#)

★ *TEACHROCK* ★



What is the “Surf Sound” and how did it develop?

In this lesson you will:

- Discover the historical significance of surfing and the growth of Surf Culture
  - Learn about the contributions of such artists as The Beach Boys, Dick Dale, and the Surfariis to the “surf sound”
  - Listen to songs that represent the musical roots of the surf music in the early 1960s
  - Think about the historic connection of surf culture to Hawaii
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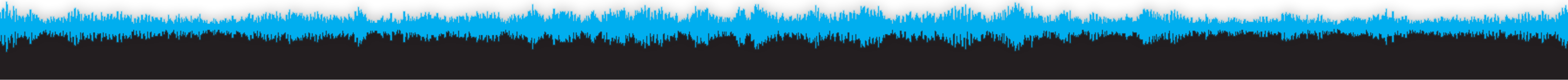


## DISCOVER THE EARLY HISTORY OF SURFING

Watch [this video](#) above to learn about the history of surfing.



Consider or ask a friend:

- What are some of the roles surfing plays for Hawaiians?
  - How was surfing introduced to the other countries?
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## TRADITIONAL HAWAIIAN MUSIC

Watch [this video](#) to learn more about traditional Hawaiian Music.



Consider or ask a friend:

- How is the type of guitar in the clip different from the guitar music you have heard before?
  - Can you imagine this music paired with surfing in early Hawaii?
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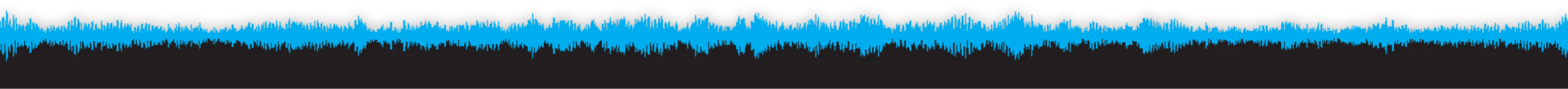
Learn more about the history of Surf Music by reading or printing out [this timeline](#).





Consider or ask a friend:

- In what year did Hawaii become a state?
- What happened after Hawaii's statehood?






Examine this poster from a popular movie, “Beach Party,” made in 1963.





Consider or talk with a friend:

- What five words would you use to describe this movie poster?
  - What type of music do you think you would hear in this movie?
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Listen to the songs on the next few slides to learn how surf music changed from the days of “Gidget” to the surf sound of the 1960’s, and how that “new” music was influenced by earlier performances.





Vocal Harmonies: the sound of two or more notes heard simultaneously.

Song 1: **“The Things We Did Last Summer,” The Beach Boys** (1963)

Song 2: **“Angel Eyes,” the Four Freshmen** (1956)





Rhythm and Blues Guitar: a type of fast-paced electric guitar music that has its roots in African American communities in the 1940s

Song 1: **“Fun, Fun, Fun,” The Beach Boys** (1964)

Song 2: **“Johnny B. Goode,” Chuck Berry** (1958)





Wall of Sound: a music production technique in which a number of musicians play the same notes at the same time in an echo chamber

Song 1: **“Don’t Worry Baby,” The Beach Boys** (1964)

Song 2: **“Be My Baby,” the Ronettes** (1963)





Instrumental Reverb: an effect whereby the sound produced by an amplifier or an amplified musical instrument is made to reverberate slightly.

Song 1: **“Wipeout,” the Surfaris** (1963)

Song 2: **“Miserlou,” Dick Dale and the Del-Tones** (1962)



# SUMMARY

- In Ancient Hawaii, surfing was both a spiritual and recreational activity
- The popularity of surfing grew as surfers traveled and demonstrated the sport in Australia, New Zealand and California
- Surf culture grew after Hawaii was granted Statehood in 1959
- The Pioneers of “surf sound” were strongly influenced by Rhythm and Blues guitar styles, vocal-group harmonies, instrumental reverb, and “Wall of Sound” production techniques





# BE CREATIVE

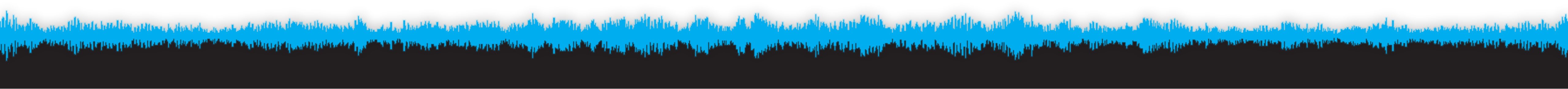
- **Design Your Own Surf Art:** Using [this handout](#) for inspiration, draw your own wave and fill it with surf song lyrics. You can learn how to draw a wave by visiting [this site](#).
- **Create An Illustrated Timeline:** Use a comic strip format to show the sequence of events that occurred in the history of Surf Sound. Use [this timeline](#) for reference.



# BE CURIOUS

**Early video from 1962** (Created by Bruce Brown, Director of Endless Summer)

And **here's a video** of the First Skateboard Championships from 1976



# CONNECT

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





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