



THE BEATLES

Handout 2 - Timeline of The Beatles' Early Years

- **1956** - John Lennon forms the skiffle group The Quarrymen. Lennon was 16 years old at the time
- **October 1957** - 15-year old Paul McCartney debuts with The Quarrymen at a show in Liverpool.
- **Early 1958** - 15-year old George Harrison joins The Quarrymen
- **August 1959** - The Quarrymen begin a run of 7 consecutive Saturday nights at the Casbah Coffee Club in Liverpool
- **Early 1960** - The Quarrymen undergo personnel changes and become "The Silver Beatles"
- **May 1960** - The Silver Beatles perform as the backing band for vocalist Johnny Gentle on a 7-show tour of Scotland. The repertoire consists almost entirely of American Rock and Roll and Rhythm and Blues songs.
- **June-July 1960** - The group is advertised both as "The Silver Beatles" and "The Beatles." They perform more than 16 shows at "tough" venues in towns outside of Liverpool. It has been suggested that they were told to "play through the fights."
- **August 1960** - "The Beatles" becomes the band's official name. Drummer Pete Best joins the group.
- **August 17 - November 28 1960** - The Beatles perform six to seven sets per show for 98 consecutive nights in Hamburg, Germany.
- **November 21, 1960** - George Harrison is deported from Germany for working underage. He was 17 at the time.
- **Winter 1961** - The Beatles perform 20 or more shows per month, sometimes playing two shows in one day.
- **April 1 - July 1 1961** - The Beatles return to Hamburg Germany where they perform nightly. They have no nights off during this stretch of shows.
- **August 1961** - The Beatles perform 34 shows in 31 days, a pace they maintain through 1961.



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- **December 1961** - Brian Epstein becomes The Beatles' manager.
- **January - February 1962** - The Beatles play 66 shows in 59 days.
- **March 1962** - The Beatles perform 38 times including their first radio show on the BBC "Teenager's Turn - Here We Go" program.
- **March 1962** - The Beatles begin appearing in matching suits.
- **April - May 1962** - The daily performance schedule continues, including a 6-week stand in Hamburg, Germany.
- **June 1962** - Amidst many shows, The Beatles travel to London and record four songs at EMI studio at Abbey Road.
- **July - August 1962** - The Beatles continue to perform more shows than there are days in the month.
- **August 15, 1962** - Drummer Pete Best is replaced by Ringo Starr.
- **September 1962** - January 1963 - While continuing the same pace of performing, including two shorter trips to Hamburg, Germany, The Beatles make several visits to EMI studio to record, perform on TV and on several radio shows.
- **February 1963** - Amidst a hectic performance schedule The Beatles record the bulk of their debut album, Please Please Me, on February 11.
- **March 1963** - Please Please Me is released and is an instant success. During the remainder of 1963, The Beatles' frenetic pace continues. However, the venues increase in size prestige.
- **October 1963** - The term "Beatlemania" is coined to describe the behavior of Beatle fans.
- **February 9, 1964** - The Beatles make their American premiere on The Ed Sullivan Show. An American tour follows.