

Reading

Read the text. Then check (√) True or False after each statement.

- | | True | False |
|---|-------------|--------------|
| 1. The early name for rock music was “rock ‘n’ roll.” | √ | |
| 2. Elvis Presley made the first popular rock ‘n’ roll record. | | |
| 3. Rock ‘n’ roll first became popular in the 1950s. | | |
| 4. Electric guitars were more popular in the 1960s than in the 1950s. | | |
| 5. The lyrics in rock ‘n’ roll songs were always about love. | | |
| 6. People danced a lot when they listened to rock ‘n’ roll music. | | |
| 7. The Beatles performed all over the world between 1956 and 1963. | | |

The Early Years of Rock Music

Rock music started in the United States in the mid-1950s and became popular in many parts of the world. Rock music was first called “rock ‘n’ roll,” but that changed after 1964. The first popular rock ‘n’ roll record was “Rock Around the Clock” by Bill Haley and the Comets in 1955. Young people loved it because of its lyrics and its great dance beat. In fact, dance beats were important in all rock ‘n’ roll music. But after 1964, when rock ‘n’ roll became rock, the music was no longer just for dancing.

In the 1960s the electric guitar and electrified bands became an important part of rock music. Before that, the main instruments were the guitar, bass, piano, drums, and saxophone. The content of song lyrics also changed in the 1960s. Before that, the lyrics were about teenage problems: schools, cars, summer vacation, parents, and young love. However, the lyrics in the rock music of the 1960s became more about social problems of the time.

From 1956 to 1963, the most popular rock ‘n’ roll singer was the former truck driver Elvis Presley. Teenagers loved the way he sang and danced. By 1963, the name most popular with teenagers, especially teenage girls, was the Beatles. The four musicians from England were big hits in the worlds of both rock ‘n’ roll and rock.

