



The Beatles were an English rock band formed in Liverpool in 1960. The group, whose best-known line up comprised John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr, are regarded as the most influential band of all time.



Blackbird was inspired by the racial tensions that exploded in the US on spring 1968 as a symbolic way to support the efforts of the Civil Rights Movement. McCartney underlined also that “bird” is a British slang often used for “girl”, which would make “blackbird” become “black girl”

Key Vocabulary	Definition
Pulse	The steady beat (“heart beat”) that doesn’t change throughout
Rhythm	The pattern of long and short sounds
Pitch	How low or high a note sounds
Tempo	Speed of the music
Melody	The tune
Dynamics	The volume of the sound
Harmony	Playing/singing more than one pitched note at a time
Duration	Length of time each note is played/sung for

Key Knowledge and Understanding
Music played a huge role in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 60s
The Beatles showed their support for the US civil rights movement by refusing to play in front of segregated audiences, a contract shows.
Listening is focusing on the detail of the music. Appraising is expressing your feelings and opinions on pieces of music