

The Beatles

The Beatles are a famous rock band formed in the 1960s in Liverpool, England. Known as 'The Fab Four', their music is still popular today. They have achieved 18 number one singles in the United Kingdom, their most recent being in 2023, 60 years after their first number one hit.

Formation

John Lennon and Paul McCartney met as teenagers in 1957, while John was playing in a band called The Quarrymen. Shortly after, Paul joined the band as a guitarist. Several months later, he recruited his friend George Harrison to join as another guitarist. The band's name and members changed a few times but they finally became The Beatles in 1960. Ringo Starr, a drummer, became the fourth and final member of the band, officially joining in 1962.



Beatlemania

The Beatles' first studio album, 'Please Please Me', was released in 1963. The band already had a strong fan base in Liverpool and their popularity continued to grow as they toured the UK. Their fans were very dedicated and this period of time became known as 'Beatlemania'. A vast range of Beatles-themed items were produced, from fan magazines to posters and dolls. This level of **fandom** was new at the time. In some concerts, the fans' screaming was so loud, it was difficult to hear the music.



Global Success

In 1964, The Beatles first visited the United States. Beatlemania had spread beyond the UK. When they performed on 'The Ed Sullivan Show', approximately 73 million people tuned in to watch. The Beatles became famous around the world, with many of their songs reaching number one in multiple countries.



Life after The Beatles

The band's final live performance was in 1969 on the rooftop of Apple Records in London. They began to pursue their own interests outside of The Beatles and later that year, John decided he wanted to leave the band. In 1970, people began to assume The Beatles had broken up for good. A month later, they released their final album, 'Let It Be'. Each member of the band went on to have individual success in the years that followed.

Fascinating Facts

The Beatles made films as well as music. They released five films in total, starting with 'A Hard Day's Night' in 1964.

Ringo Starr narrated the 'Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends' TV Series from 1984 to 1986.

Sir Paul McCartney has a minor planet named after him.

The Beatles

Paul



John



George



Ringo



Glossary

fandom:

A group or community of fans who really like something or someone.