

1940's Popular Music in America 1940's

ON THE AIR

1940's Pop (Crooner's) - Look & Learn

SEARCH & LISTEN TO THESE SONGS BY THESE PERFORMERS.

Performer	Song Title
Bing Crosby	Swing On a Star
Nat "King" Cole	(Get Your Kicks On) Route 66

Enter song title here +

CREATED BY

1940's

Almost the whole world was involved in World War II during the 1940's. Styles like jazz, big band and swing were considered to be the popular types of music during this decade. But other styles such as country, rhythm & blues and pop began to emerge as well. The pain of World War II could be felt in the songs of this time period yet the songs were also somewhat upbeat - providing hope for the future.

1940's

UNITED STATES

Look, Learn & Listen

RADIO BROADCAST OF PART OF BOB HOE'S USO TOUR

ALSO SEE SOME PICTURES TAKEN DURING THE TOUR.

Label each empty part of the graphic organizer with the name of a famous performer from this

1940's

Famous

DIGITAL

TrinityMusic

TrinityMusic



1940's



About Top 20 Hits of the Decade

For most of the 1930's & 40's *Billboard* magazine wasn't around. By the late part of this decade *Billboard* did keep track of some genres by year but there was no "pop hit chart." The person,

(http://digitaldreamdoor.com/pages/best_songs-1940s.html), who chose these songs, selected these rankings based off how long each song remained popular. He also took into consideration how much of an impact the songs made to society and music.

CAUTION



1940's



Top 20 Hits of the Decade

- #1 "White Christmas" - Bing Crosby
- #2 "The Christmas Song" - Nat "King" Cole
- #3 "God Bless the Child" - Billie Holiday
- #4 "Take the "A" Train" - Duke Ellington
- #5 "Star Dust" - Artie Shaw
- #6 "Swinging On a Star" - Bing Crosby
- #7 "You Always Hurt the One You Love" - Mills Brothers
- #8 "Boogie-Woogie Bugle Boy" - Andrews Sisters
- #9 "Chattanooga Choo Choo" - Glenn Miller
- #10 "Paper Doll" - Mills Brothers
- #11 "Rudolph, The Red-Nosed Reindeer" - Gene Autry
- #12 "Sentimental Journey" - Les Brown
- #13 "I'll Be Seeing You" - Bing Crosby
- #14 "I'll Never Smile Again" - Tommy Dorsey
- #15 "Riders in the Sky (A Cowboy Legend)" - Vaughn Monroe
- #16 "Auld Lang Syne" - Guy Lombardo
- #17 "That's My Desire" - Frankie Laine
- #18 "Don't Fence Me In" - Bing Crosby & The Andrews Sisters
- #19 "Jingle, Jangle, Jingle" - Kay Kiser
- #20 "Tuxedo Junction" - Glenn Miller



1940's



Top 20 Hits of the Decade

Position Number	Song Title & Performer	Via SafeShare	Via YouTube
1	"White Christmas" - Bing Crosby	https://safeshare.tv/x/UD43sQ5TBhc	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UD43sQ5TBhc
2	"The Christmas Song" - Nat "King" Cole	https://safeshare.tv/x/ss596f9fd7cf80	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwacxSnc4tl
3	"God Bless the Child" - Billie Holiday	https://safeshare.tv/x/ss57fc09dd341cc	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wc4JvGfRLpA
4	"Take the "A" Train" - Duke Ellington	https://safeshare.tv/x/ss57fc0a7f95827	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cb2w2m1JmCY
5	"Star Dust" - Artie Shaw	https://safeshare.tv/x/P0NNxb9F7I	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P0NNxby9F7I



1940's

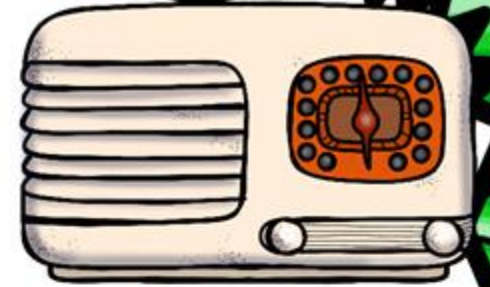


Top 20 Hits of the Decade

Position Number	Song Title & Performer	Via SafeShare	Via YouTube
6	"Swing On a Star" - Bing Crosby	https://safeshare.tv/x/9CDs067081E	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9CDs067081E
7	"You Always Hurt the One You Love" - Mills Brothers	https://safeshare.tv/x/ss57fc0aea066e3	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mS9U75YC-jA
8	"Boogie-Woogie Bugle Boy" - Andrews Sisters	https://safeshare.tv/x/ss57fc0b08ed6ce	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8of3uhG1tCl
9	"Chattanooga Choo Choo" - Glenn Miller	https://safeshare.tv/x/ss57fc0b58d2250	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-XQybKMXL-k
10	"Paper Doll" - Mills Brothers	https://safeshare.tv/x/ss596fa12f53c82	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sppx_yZs4DY



1940's



Top 20 Hits of the Decade

Position Number	Song Title & Performer	Via SafeShare	Via YouTube
11	"Rudolph, The Red-Nosed Reindeer" - Gene Autry	https://safeshare.tv/x/j11rwc6Sf4o	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j11rwc6Sf4o
12	"Sentimental Journey" - Les Brown & Doris Day	https://safeshare.tv/x/ss57fc0d5b7a129	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Lg6icZ9zfs
13	"I'll Be Seeing You" - Bing Crosby	https://safeshare.tv/x/JSlodQjUSmg	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JSlodQjUSmg
14	"I'll Never Smile Again" - Tommy Dorsey	https://safeshare.tv/x/kEPnhszmKuo	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kEPnhszmKuo
15	"Riders in the Sky (A Cowboy Legend)" - Vaughn Monroe	https://safeshare.tv/x/ais2uSUwluY	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ais2uSUwluY



1940's



Top 20 Hits of the Decade

Position Number	Song Title & Performer	Via SafeShare	Via YouTube
16	"Auld Lang Syne" - Guy Lombardo	https://safeshare.tv/x/qK0Lfr5Wpo	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qK0Lfr5Wpo
17	"That's My Desire" - Frankie Laine	https://safeshare.tv/x/gJdE9za7Pug	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gJdE9za7Pug
18	"Don't Fence Me In" - Bing Crosby & The Andrews Sisters	https://safeshare.tv/x/lrcSvZRA08	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lrcSvZRA08
19	"Jingle, Jangle, Jingle" - Kay Kiser	https://safeshare.tv/x/pSTUzFPwB8Y	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pSTUzFPwB8Y
20	"Tuxedo Junction" - Glenn Miller	https://safeshare.tv/x/FShSI_6LyF8	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FShSI_6LyF8



1940's



Almost the whole world was involved in World War II during the 1940's. Styles like jazz, big band and swing were considered to be the popular types of music during this decade. But other styles such as country, rhythm & blues and pop began to emerge as well. The pain of World War II could be felt in the songs of this time period yet the songs were also somewhat upbeat – providing hope for the future.



1940's

Music Industry & Technology - pt. 1

During World War II many young people had to help out their families by taking a job and going to work.

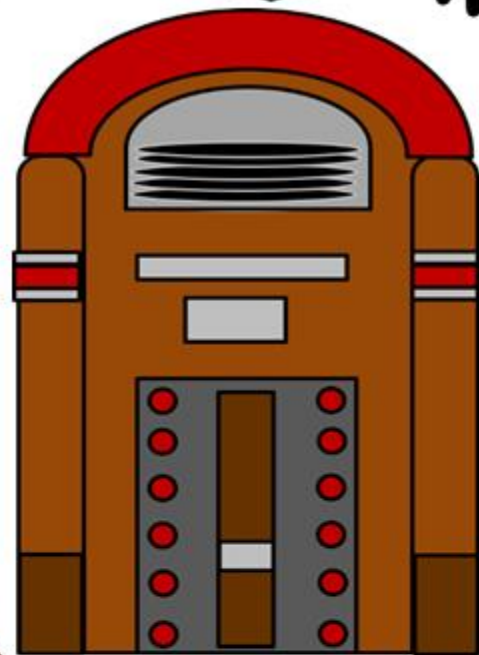
By the time their father's arrived back from the war teenagers were used to having some money to spend.

So in order to keep earning money, they started working around the house and doing chores - which then led to weekly allowances.





1940's



Music Industry & Technology - pt. 2

They usually liked to spend their money on buying records, putting money in the jukeboxes to listen to music and going to the movies.

That's when the record companies started to "go after" the teenage market.





1940's



Music Industry & Technology - pt. 3

And now the battle begins....
Who is really in charge of saying something is "popular?" In previous decades the music industry basically controlled who and what would be played on the radio. But beginning in the 1940's the youth culture started to control what was considered popular.

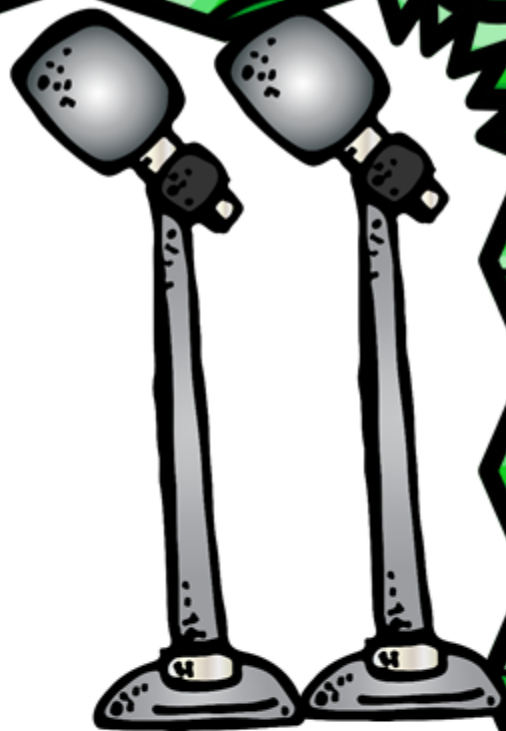




1940's

Music Industry & Technology - pt. 4

As for music technology....recording in the studio changed by the end of the 1940's. A new system, "magnetic tape recording," allowed performers to re-record over their mistakes (aka as "overdubbing"). By the end of the decade another type of recorder (this one allowed performers to use two microphones in their recording session) was created. This new "technology" resulted in the beginning of stereo sound.



CLICK ON THE MICROPHONES & FOLLOW THE LINK TO WATCH A VIDEO (NO SOUND) SHOWING A RECORDING SYSTEM WITH 2 MICROPHONES.

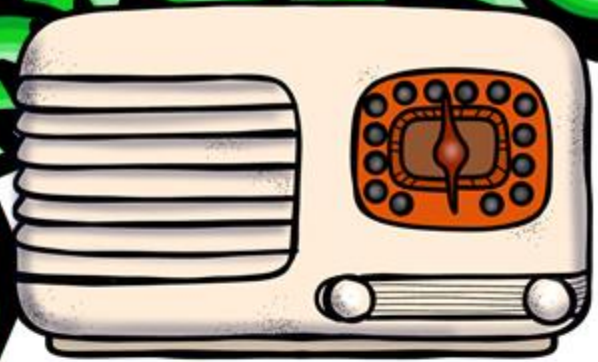


1940's



Music Industry & Technology - pt. 5

And lastly the "Battle of the Speeds." Since the invention of the phonograph, records were made out of shellac. Shellac made listening to the recordings "noisy" and the records themselves could scratch and break easily. They would spin around the gramophone at the speed of 78 RPM's (revolutions per minute). The disc size was about 10 inches (although some were 12 inches) and it could only hold about four minutes of sound. During World War II shellac became too costly and rare to find.

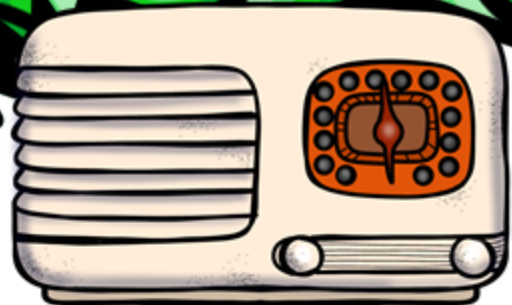


1940's

Music Industry & Technology - pt. 6

In 1948 a 12 inch disc (that revolved at 33 1/3 RPM's) was created by Columbia Records. This "LP" was considered a "long-playing" record since it could hold more than 20 minutes of sound on one side. To us that doesn't sound very impressive but back then, if you stacked up the records and compared them.....



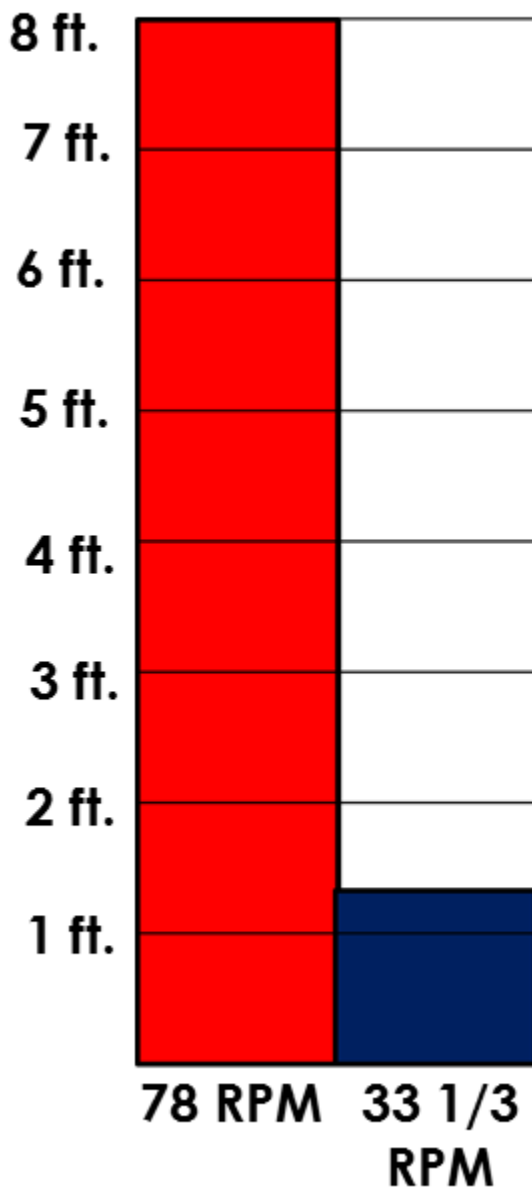


1940's

Music Industry & Technology - pt. 7

Holy Moly!! An 8 high foot high stack of 78's held the same amount of music as the newer 15 inch high stack of 33 1/3 records!

**CLICK ON THE
RECORD & FOLLOW
THE LINK TO
WATCH A VIDEO
EXPLAINING THE
RECORD SPEEDS.**





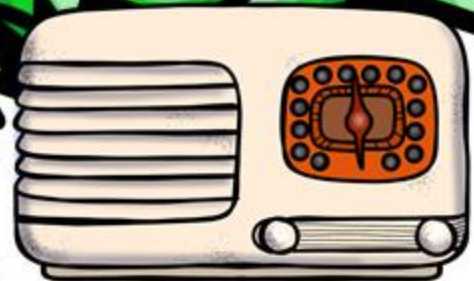
1940's



Music Industry & Technology - pt. 8

But the speed battle wasn't over! The very next year another company, RCA, created a 7 inch disc 45 RPM. This smaller-sized record could actually hold about the same amount of music as the older 78 RPM. So what makes this so great?! Consumers, like the teenagers, no longer had to buy a whole album. If they wanted to buy the current "hit" by their favorite performer, they could do so with this first "single" record!

CLICK ON THE LARGER RECORD & FOLLOW THE LINK TO WATCH A VIDEO (NO SOUND) TO WATCH TEENAGERS FROM THE 1940'S AT A RECORD STORE. THE LINK ON THE SMALLER RECORD WILL SHOW YOU SOME OF THE "SLANG" OR "LINGO" BACK THEN. 😊



1940's



Genres of the Decade

Up till the end of 1800's most music that people listened to fell into just a couple of categories. This decade was no different. As people actually lived through this decade they only thought of the music they listened to as being in these main genres:

Swing

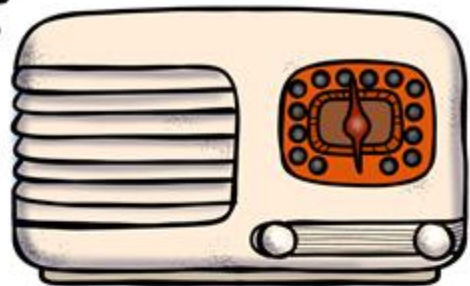
Pop

Country

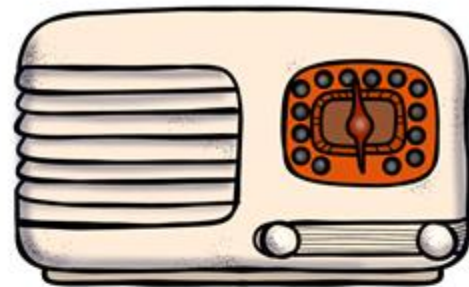
(Crooners)

Rhythm & Blues
(R&B)

Boogie-woogie



1940's



Swing





1940's

The Music - Swing - pt. 1

Although "swing" music began in the 1920's, its popularity reached the highest point in the 1940's - lasting until the middle of the decade. This style of music typically was usually played at a medium to fast tempo and stressed the "off-beat" (weak beat) which gave the music a "swing feeling."





1940's

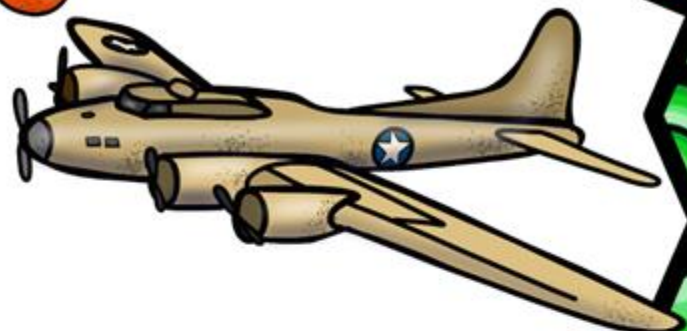
The Music - Swing - pt. 2

The bands were made up of brass (trumpets and trombones), woodwinds (clarinets and saxophones) and a rhythm section (drums, double bass and piano). Soloists were sometimes featured and some even improvised.





1940's



The Music - Swing - pt. 3

This popular style started to decline around the middle of the 1940's. The main reason for this had to do with the war that was going on. Musicians at that time were predominantly male, and because of World War II, many of them left to fight overseas. It became difficult for bandleaders to find replacements.





1940's



The Music - Swing - pt. 4

By the end of this decade the sound of swing developed into other styles like traditional pop and bebop. Some of the most famous big bandleaders included: Count Basie, Cab Calloway, Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, Woody Herman, Glenn Miller, and Artie Shaw.





1940's



Swing - Look, Listen & Learn



**Duke Ellington –
*Take the A Train***



**Artie Shaw –
*Star Dust***



1940's



Swing - Look, Listen & Learn



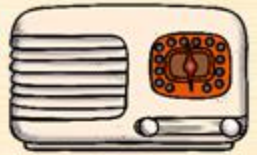
**Glenn Miller –
*Chattanooga Choo Choo***



**Cab Calloway –
*Blues in the Night***



Popular Music from the **1940's**



Name Type here

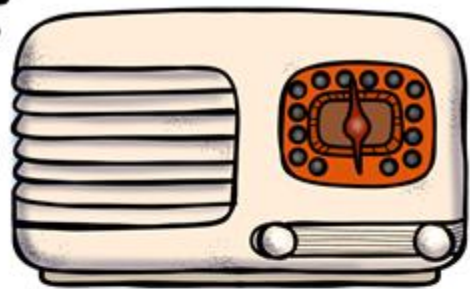
Class Type here

Who was your favorite performer of swing from this decade? Insert a video of the performer singing one of the song's listed in your reading.

**Why did you choose this song & singer?
Type here**

Insert > Media > Video > Online Video

*Insert
video
here*



1940's



Boogie

Woogie





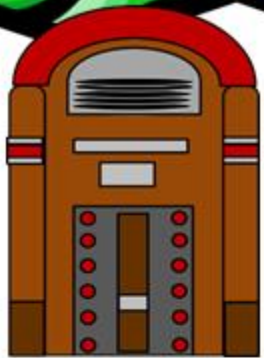
1940's



The Music - Boogie-Woogie - pt. 1

The boogie-woogie style had been around since the days of ragtime (late 1800's). Originally it involved a piano player performing 8 eighth notes in the left hand (bass). This was called "eight to the bar." And often, the performers used the same chord progression as the 12 bar-blues (I - IV - V - I). In the 1920's Pine Top Smith had a big hit with his song, "Pinetop's Boogie Woogie."





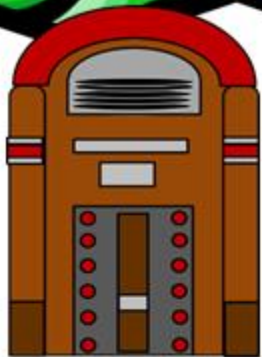
1940's



The Music - Boogie-Woogie - pt. 2

The boogie-woogie style stuck around and by the late 1930's (into the 40's) it became even more popular when the swing style adapted it. "Pine Top Boogie" was "tweaked" and Tommy Dorsey's band released their version of the song which became a hit (again) in the 1940's.





1940's



Boogie-Woogie - Look, Listen & Learn



**Pine Top Smith –
*Pine Top's Boogie Woogie***



**Tommy Dorsey Band –
*Boogie-Woogie***



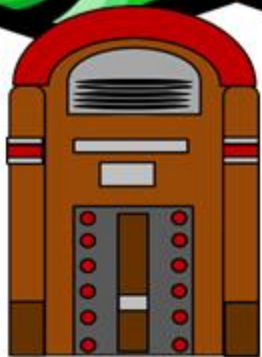
1940's



The Music - Boogie-Woogie - pt. 3

Vocalists, like the Andrew Sisters, also performed in the boogie-woogie style. And because people liked to dance the "jitterbug" to that genre, most bands incorporated some boogie-woogie into their performances.





1940's



Boogie-Woogie - Look, Listen & Learn



**The Andrews Sisters –
*Boogie-Woogie Bugle Boy***



The jitterbug dance...



Popular Music from the 1940's



Name Type here

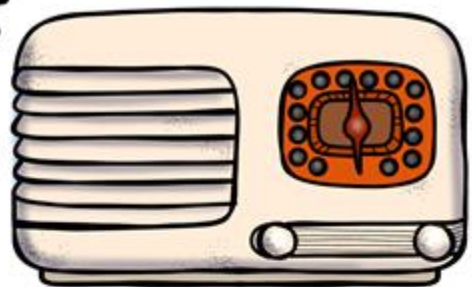
Class Type here

Who was your favorite performer of boogie-woogie from this decade? Insert a video of the performer singing one of the song's listed in your reading.

Why did you choose this song & singer?
Type here

Insert > Media > Video > Online Video

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video
here*



1940's



POP

(CROONERS)





ON THE AIR

1940's

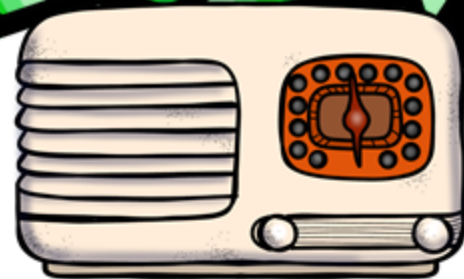


The Music - Pop (Crooner's)

By the end of the war, swing had declined in popularity and a newer form, crooning (aka traditional pop) began to take over. Some of the more popular performers (like Bing Crosby & Nat "King" Cole) got their start by singing with a big band. Due to the newer recording techniques and sounds though, others (like Rudy Vallee) became less popular as the decade went on.

ON THE AIR

1940's



The Music - Pop (Crooner's)

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1940's



Pop (Crooner's) - Look, Listen & Learn



**Bing Crosby –
*Swing On a Star***



**Rudy Vallee –
*As Time Goes By***



**Nat "King" Cole –
*(Get Your Kicks On)
Route 66***



Popular Music from the 1940's



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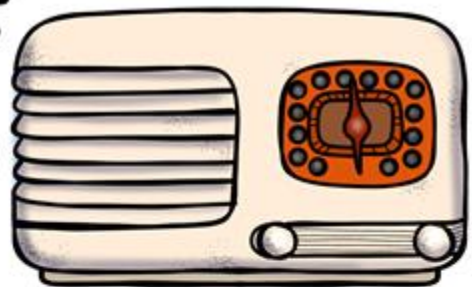
Class Type here

Who was your favorite performer of pop from this decade? Insert a video of the performer singing one of the song's listed in your reading.

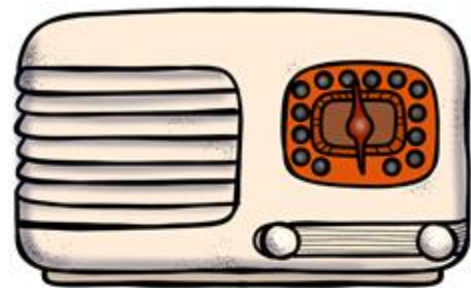
Why did you choose this song & singer?
Type here

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video
here*



1940's

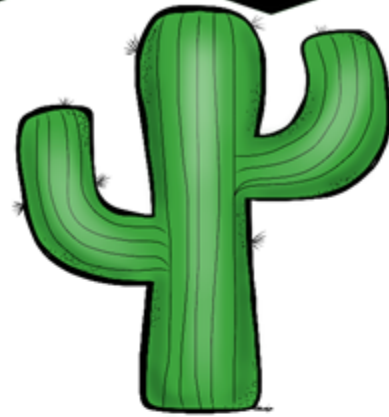


Country





1940's



The Music - Country - pt. 1

As you travel through American Popular Music you might notice how similar genre names are or how they evolve and change. One way to appeal to more people is by changing the name of a style and that's exactly what happened in country music during this time. In previous decades country music had been referred to as: folk, country, western, bluegrass and hillbilly music. But during the 1940's the word "hillbilly" was replaced first with "folk songs and blues" to "country & western."

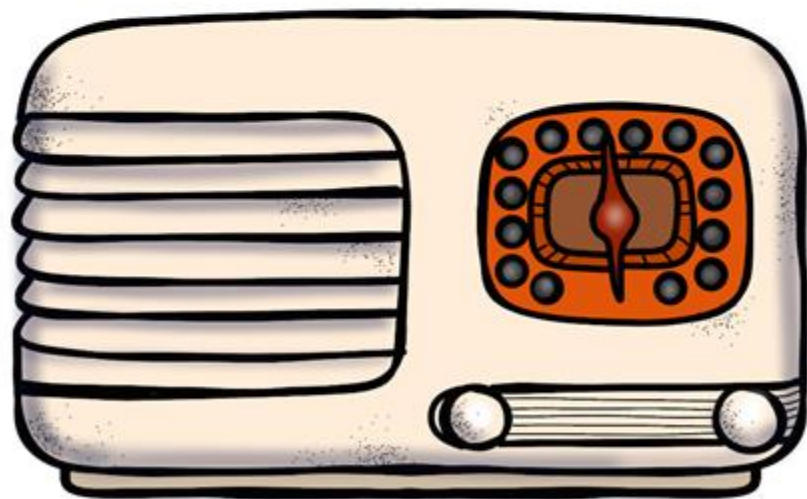


1940's



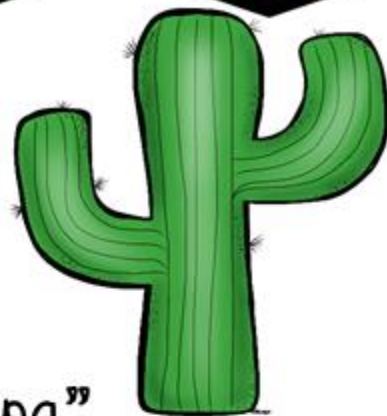
The Music - Country - pt. 2
The country style became much more popular during the 1940's too. One reason for this had to do with the radio station, **WSM**, which hosted the *Grand Ole Opry* show.

Because of the station's huge signal strength many people around the country could hear its broadcasts so its popularity grew.





1940's



The Music - Country pt. 3 - "Texas Swing"

But the name change probably wasn't the only reason this style grew in popularity. The swing style of music had an influence on the country music world as "western swing" was created. Country performer, Bob Willis really helped to make this newer genre catch on. Western swing music usually had an up-tempo beat and people liked to dance to it.



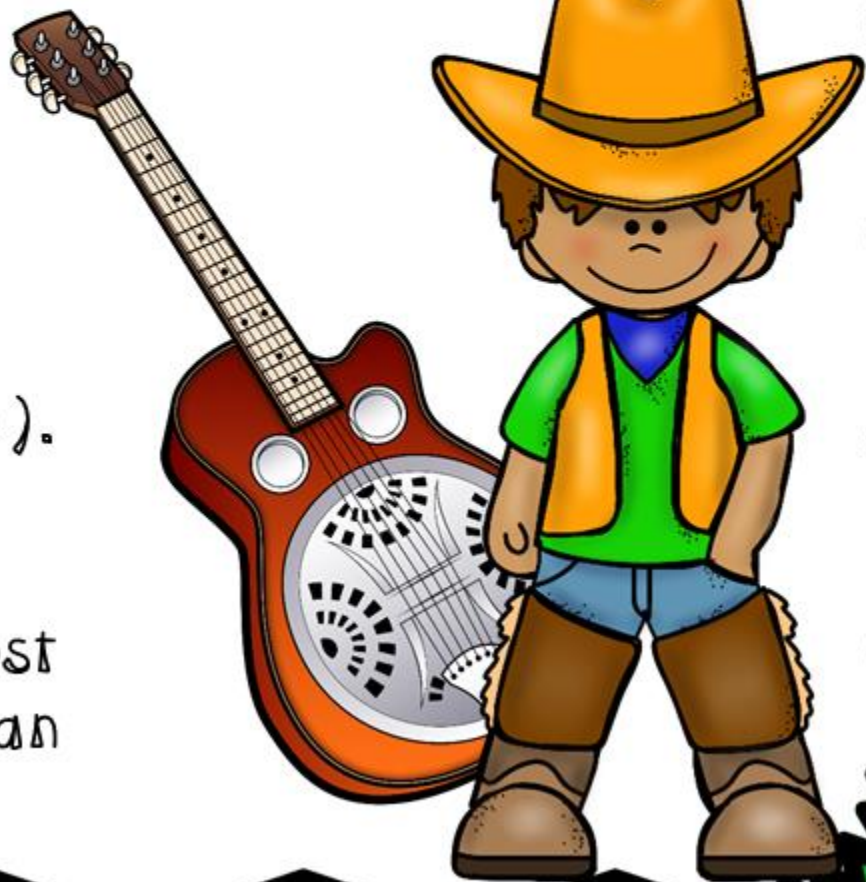
**Bob Willis –
Smoke On the Water**



1940's



The Music - Country pt. 4 "Honky Tonk"
Ernest Tubb and Hank Williams helped launch the "honky tonk" style which typically included a guitar, fiddle (violin), string bass, and steel guitar (originally used in Hawaiian folk music). Usually the lyrics of this style talked of loneliness, feeling sorry for oneself, lost love, life for the working man and drinking.





1940's



Country - "Honky Tonk" - Look, Listen & Learn



Ernest Tubb –
Walking the Floor Over You



Hank Williams –
Lovesick Blues



1940's



The Music - Country pt. 5

And then there's the performer Eddy Arnold...he liked to mix honky tonk with other popular genres of the day. Audiences loved his blend of styles so much he had songs land on both the country and pop charts!

Throughout his long career, "The Tennessee Plowboy" (his nickname) had over 150 hits!





1940's



Country - Look, Listen & Learn



**Eddy Arnold –
*Bouquet of Roses***





1940's



The Music - Country pt. 6 - Influence of Women

And what about the women? Some women had a little taste of success while performing concerts but the recording business wasn't very helpful (or encouraging) to women yet. However in 1945 Jenny Lou Carson "showed everyone" by becoming the first woman to write a number one country song. It was called, "You Two-Timed Me One Time Too Often" and was recorded by Tex Ritter. And she had another hit, "Don't Rob Another Man's Castle," when Eddy Arnold released his recording of it in 1949.

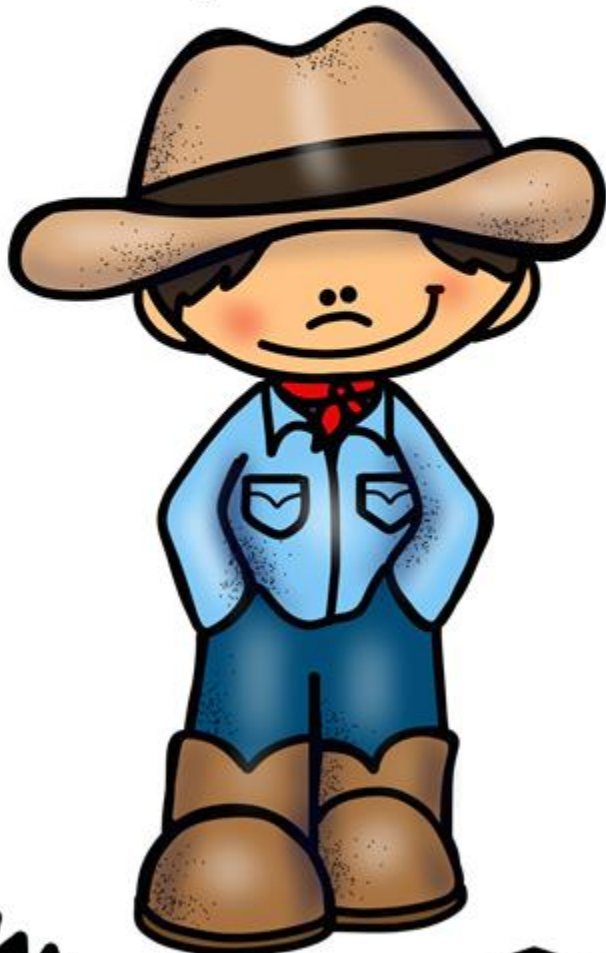




1940's



Country - Look, Listen & Learn



**Tex Ritter –
*You Two-Timed Me One
Time Too Often***



Popular Music from the **1940's**



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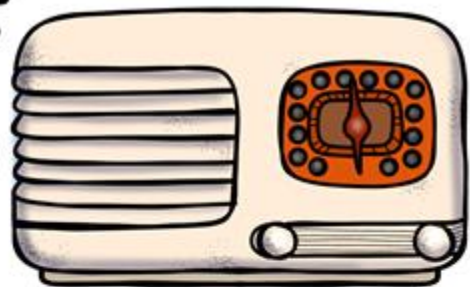
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Who was your favorite performer of country from this decade? Insert a video of the performer singing one of the song's listed in your reading.

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[Insert > Media > Video > Online Video](#)

*Insert
video
here*

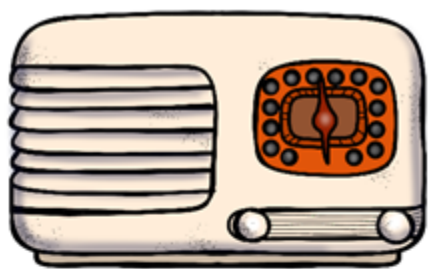


1940's



RHYTHM
& BLUES
(R&B)





1940's



The Music - Rhythm & Blues - pt. 1

The genre, "rhythm & blues," had been gradually developing - getting some its elements from jazz, gospel, and blues music. It frequently used syncopated beats with the 12-bar blues chord progression. It also borrowed and altered the "call and response" form from the African culture. Instead of one person "calling" and a group "responding," it became a strictly solo vocal performance. And because of its "suggestive lyrics" and "driving rhythms," many felt that this genre was not acceptable for the "middle-class white people."





1940's



The Music - Rhythm & Blues - pt. 2
This style of music, like country, had been called by many other names. But in the 1940's this style had been referred to as "race" music. Finally in 1949 people realized how offensive that name sounded and *Billboard* magazine changed it to "Rhythm & Blues." Notice Nat "King" Cole again? The music of several artists crossed over into other genres.



**Ink Spots –
Don't Get Around
Much Anymore**



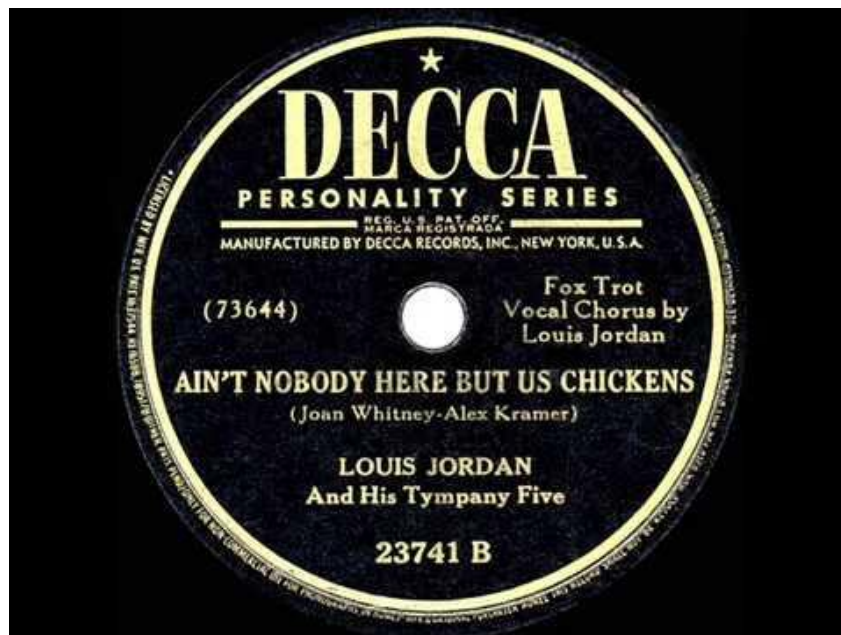
1940's



Rhythm & Blues - Look, Listen & Learn



Nat "King" Cole –
That Ain't Right



Louis Jordan –
*Ain't Nobody Here But
Us Chickens*



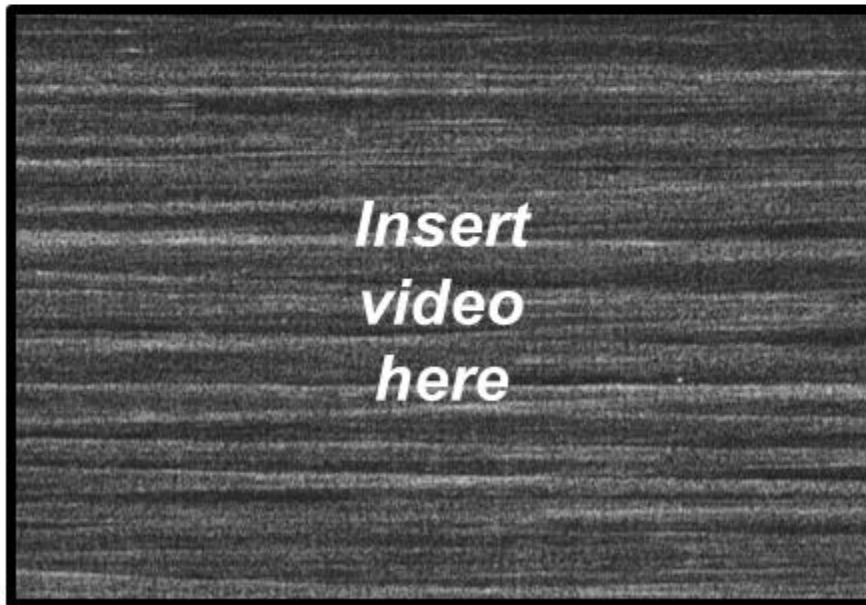
Popular Music from the 1940's



Name Type here

Class Type here

Who was your favorite performer of rhythm & blues from this decade? Insert a video of the performer singing one of the song's listed in your reading.



*Insert
video
here*



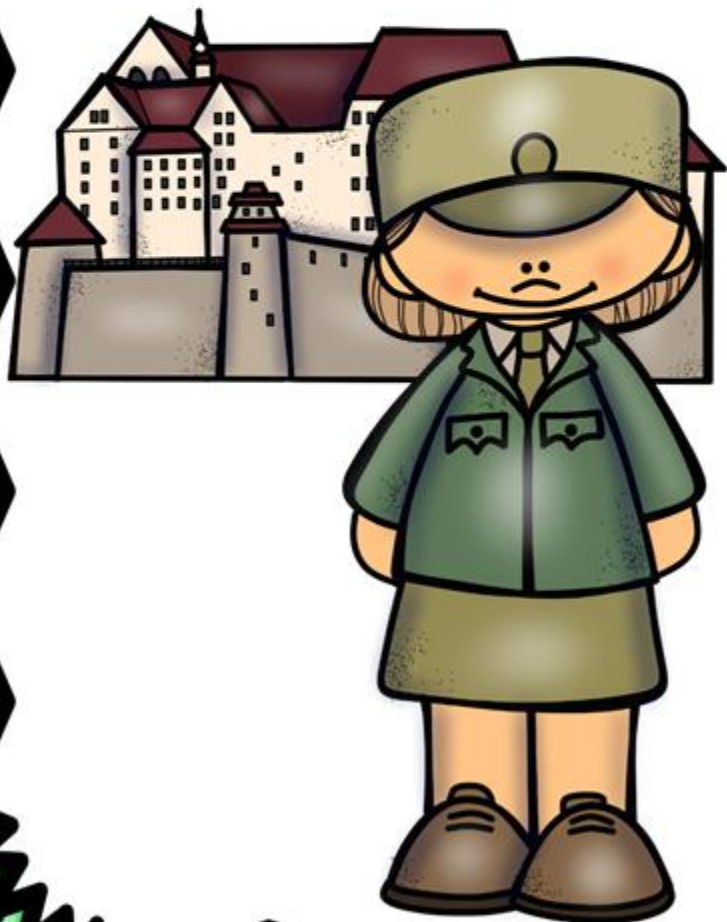
**Why did you choose this song & singer?
Type here**



1940's



The Music - The U.S.O.



In 1941 the U.S.O. (United States Service Organizations) was created by bringing together six organizations including the Salvation Army, YMCA, YWCA and several religious groups. The purpose for this group was basically to help keep the spirits up of military personnel who were away from their homes and loved ones.



1940's



The Music - The U.S.O.

To help do this they transported entertainers (like popular singers, comedians and movie stars) to perform for the soldiers. Other duties included: talking to, dancing with, showing movies, providing a quiet place for them to write a letter home, or to simply get a free cup of coffee.





1940's



The Music - The U.S.O.

The entertainers travelled as part of a "Camp Show" to help boost the morale of the troops. They reminded the soldiers of what home life was like and help instill a sense of patriotism! Some of the musical entertainers who performed for the U.S.O. during this time period included: Bing Crosby, The Andrews Sisters, and Glenn Miller.

UNITED
STATES



1940's



The U.S.O. - Look, Learn & Listen

LISTEN TO A RADIO BROADCAST OF PART OF BOB HOE'S USO TOUR IN 1944. YOU'LL ALSO SEE SOME PICTURES TAKEN DURING THE TOUR.





1940's



End of 1940's

Society in the 1940's went through difficult times. They lived through the largest war this world has seen yet. But thanks to the music performers during this decade, who created optimistic and encouraging music, mankind was able to find a little happiness through the gift of song.



1940's



- 🌐 1940 - Walt Disney releases *Pinocchio*
- 🌐 1940 - Debut of *Tom & Jerry* cartoon
- 🌐 1940 - Hattie McDaniel becomes the 1st African-American to win an Academy Award (Oscar)
- 🌐 1940 - Batman's sidekick, Robin (the Boy Wonder) is introduced in comic books
- 🌐 1940 - Booker T. Washington becomes 1st African-American to have face displayed on U.S. postage stamp
- 🌐 1940 - Great Smoky Mountains National Park dedicated
- 🌐 1940 - Winston Churchill becomes Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
- 🌐 1940 - *Bugs Bunny* (cartoon) debuts
- 🌐 1940 - Franklin D. Roosevelt becomes first and only three term U.S. president
- 🌐 1940 - Walt Disney's, *Fantasia* released
- 🌐 1940 - *Captain America* comics debuts in U.S.

What in the **WORLD**?????



1940's



- 1940 - 1st blood transfusion
- 1940 - 1st first color television appears in New York City
- 1940 - 1st multi-lane superhighway (Pennsylvania Turnpike) opens
- 1940 - 1st McDonald's hamburger stand opens in Pasadena, California
- 1940 - Penicillin 1st used to cure diseases
- 1940 - 1st synthetic rubber tires were manufactured
- 1940 - 1st commercial airplane flights
- 1940 - 1st Jeep is made
- 1940 - M & M's 1st made (for U.S. Army)
- 1941 - USO is created (to entertain American troops)
- 1941 - *Cheerios* first introduced
- 1941 - Commercial television begins in United States
- 1941 - Construction on the Pentagon Building begins
- 1941 - Walt Disney's *Dumbo* is released
- 1941 - Mount Rushmore is completed

What in the **WORLD**?????



1940's



- 🌐 1941 - Japanese attack Pearl Harbor and U.S. declares war on Japan & Germany
- 🌐 1941 - Jeep invented
- 🌐 1941 - Joe DiMaggio begins 56-game hitting streak
- 🌐 1941 - 1st Superman movie
- 🌐 1942 - 1st year for daylight savings time
- 🌐 1942 - Aaron Copland's, *Lincoln Portrait* performed for 1st time
- 🌐 1942 - Anne Frank's family goes into hiding
- 🌐 1942 - Walt Disney's film *Bambi* opens in London
- 🌐 1942 - U.S. rations sugar & gasoline
- 🌐 1943 - Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C. is dedicated
- 🌐 1943 - *Slinky*® was invented (not sold though until 1947)
- 🌐 1944 - Normandy Invasion & D-Day
- 🌐 1945 - First computer built

What in the **WORLD**?????



1940's



- 🌐 1945 - Microwave oven invented
- 🌐 1945 - United Nations founded
- 🌐 1945 - U.S. drops atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki; World War II ends
- 🌐 1946 - 1st electric blanket was manufactured
- 🌐 1947 - Jackie Robinson becomes 1st African-American player in baseball (Brooklyn Dodgers)
- 🌐 1947 - *Polaroid* cameras (develops picture in one minute) invented
- 🌐 1947 - *Elmer's Glue-All* introduced
- 🌐 1948 - Israel becomes its own state
- 🌐 1948 - 1st *Bic* ballpoint pen sold
- 🌐 1948 - Long playing records (25 minutes per side) are introduced
- 🌐 1948 - NATO (North American Treaty Organization) is formed
- 🌐 1948 - Long playing records (known as LP's) sold - 25 minutes on one side

What in the **WORLD**?????



1940's



- 🌐 1949 - 1st non-stop flight around the world
- 🌐 1949 - 1st 45 rpm records and record player.
- 🌐 1949 - 1st *Emmy Awards* (for television)
- 🌐 1949 - *Silly Putty*® was invented



What in the **WORLD**?????