

## History of Bronx Hip-Hop Lesson Plan

- **Grade Levels:** High School
- **Courses:** Local/New York State History
- **Duration:** 1 hour
- **Standards:** SS.1.1.1A, SS.1.1.3B, SS.1.1.3D
- **Materials:**
  - [NPR marks 50 years of Hip-Hop and visits its birthplace](https://www.npr.org/2023/07/11/1186407223/50-years-ago-teenagers-partied-in-the-bronx-and-gave-rise-to-hip-hop)  
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  - “Sound of the Police” by Boogie Down Productions (with lyrics on screen)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rlecPxHWkYY>
  - CUNY TV spot on the history of Hip-Hop  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D5ZpQ73R\\_z4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D5ZpQ73R_z4)
  - Lyrics to Stop the Violence by Boogie Down Productions on Genius.com  
<https://genius.com/Boogie-down-productions-stop-the-violence-lyrics>
  - Lyrics to Black America Again by Common on Genius.com  
<https://genius.com/Common-black-america-again-lyrics>
- **Timeline:**
  1. Students will read the NPR article before class as homework with the expectation of discussion the next day. (Reading should take roughly ten minutes).
  2. When the students walk in the next day, they have “Sound of the Police” by Boogie Down Productions playing in the background.

3. After the song is over, students will see Google Maps on the board (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/7jpb4xBn8ZpvavCP7>), and will be asked if they know what location is pinned. If students are stumped, the teacher will zoom in and show “The Birthplace of Hip-Hop.”
4. The teacher will then show the first ever Hip-Hop flyer, with information about DJ Kool Herc’s party, which will lead to a later assignment. (<https://upnorthtrips.com/post/57963096605/40-years-ago-today-81173-dj-kool-hercs-back>)
5. Students will then watch the CUNY video introducing the foundation story of Bronx Hip-Hop. (Video is six minutes long).
6. After watching the video, the class will discuss the main points of the video and find similarities between the video and the NPR reading, like the story of DJ Kool Herc. (About ten minutes)
7. Students will then get into three groups and analyze the lyrics of “Stop the Violence” by Boogie Down Productions, a song from the 1970’s, discussing some cultural issues of the time. Each group will be assigned a different verse. (About ten minutes)
8. The class will then discuss some of the themes found in each verse. (Five minutes).
9. Students will then repeat the activity, except with “Black America Again”, a song by Common, written about 40 years later. (Ten minutes)
10. Students will then pick out some similarities between the two songs. (Five minutes)
11. The teacher will conclude the lesson with the main ideas and assign the homework: Each group will write a new verse for a different social issue present in the United States today. (Five minutes, or until the end of class).

12. At home, students will research a present-day social issue that interests them.
  
13. The next day, students should work in the same groups as the day before to write a new verse for one of the social issues present in the United States today that they researched for their homework. They will also make a flyer, similar to DJ Kool Herc's, related to the debut of their new verse. (Twenty five minutes).