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**Name:** James Marshall Hendrix (born Johnny Allen Hendrix)

**Years:** November 27, 1942 – September 18, 1970

**Residence:** “Ashokan House” in Boiceville<sup>[80]</sup> near Woodstock, New York.

**Brief Biography:** Hendrix was born in Seattle, Washington. As a teenager, taught himself to play guitar. Hendrix did this by listening to records by Blues guitarists such as Muddy Waters and B.B. King as well as rockers such as Chuck Berry. With a rough family life (his father left his mother after the birth of his two younger siblings), he turned to music as a sanctuary. At the age of 15, he got his first electric guitar and joined two bands, the Rocking Kings and the Tomcats. He dropped out of high school and worked odd jobs while working on his music. Then Hendrix joined the army in 1961 and became a paratrooper. He only remained in the army for one year due to an injury. He followed his musical interests once again becoming a backup guitarist for acts such as Little Richard, Sam Cooke, and the Isley Brothers. He then formed Jimmy James and the Blue Flames which frequently played in New York City’s Greenwich Village. After meeting Chas Chandler in 1966, Hendrix went to London and formed the Jimi Hendrix Experience, which lasted till 1969. This is when he rented the Ashokan house and lived

there to recuperate and produce a new album. He called on his old army buddy Billy Cox to form Band of Gypsies. They performed at the Woodstock Music Festival but the band did not last. He played with a few ensembles in two more concerts before dying in 1970 after barbiturate intoxication resulted in asphyxiation.

**Major Achievements:** “Hey Joe” “Purple Haze” “The Wind Cried Mary”

**References:** <http://www.biography.com/search/article.do?id=9334756&page=2>,  
<http://www.rollingstone.com/artists/jimihendrix/biography>,