

The Beatles

WORKSHEET A

In 2005, thirty-five years after they broke up, *The Beatles* were named by Variety magazine as the most iconic entertainers of the 20th century. Not a bad achievement for four working class boys from Liverpool, England.

Paul McCartney met John Lennon in 1957 at a garden fete where John Lennon was playing with his band. After talking they decided to play together and became *The Quarrymen*. George Harrison, who was a friend of Paul McCartney, joined the band in 1958 and they changed their name to *The Silver Beetles*.

They changed their name once more in 1960 and became *The Beatles*. They travelled to Hamburg, Germany, where they developed their musical skills and came back to the UK as experienced performers, where they quickly became stars.

Their manager Brian Epstein worked hard to get them a recording contract, but it wasn't an easy task. They had a lot of different drummers until 1962, when Ringo Starr joined the band. The final line up was John Lennon and George Harrison on vocals and guitars, Paul McCartney on vocals and bass, and Ringo Starr on drums.

Finally, after being rejected by almost every other label, the recording company EMI agreed to try them out. They recorded their first single *Love Me Do* at Abbey Road Studios in London and within a year 'Beatlemania' had taken hold of Britain.

They released their first US single *I Wanna Hold Your Hand* in 1964 and the United States, too, was instantly gripped by 'Beatlemania'. By the following year, they had become the most famous band in the world.

Over the next five years they produced songs of all different styles, from ballads to anthems and from blues to heavy metal. After their split in 1970 the band members went their different ways and each enjoyed some solo success, but never matched the popularity they had known as *The Beatles*.

Ten years later, in 1980, 40-year-old John Lennon was shot dead in front of his apartment in New York by crazed fan Mark Chapman. Lennon's wife Yoko Ono still lives in the apartment. Then in 2001 George Harrison, 'The Quiet Beatle', lost his battle with cancer and died at the age of 58.

Paul McCartney has continued to perform and in 1997 became Sir Paul McCartney. In 2003 his wife Heather gave birth to a daughter, Milly Beatrice. And last but not least, Ringo Starr has also continued to perform but remains the only Beatle who has not been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as a solo artist.

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WORKSHEET **B**

Answer the twelve questions to reveal the name of the man who is often referred to as 'The Fifth Beatle'. This man recorded all the Beatles albums and is responsible for giving them such a distinctive sound.

Write the first letter of each answer in the box with the corresponding number at the bottom of the page.

- 1 In which country did *The Beatles* develop their musical skills?
- 2 Which label did *The Beatles* record their first single with?
- 3 What is the surname of John Lennon's wife?
- 4 Ringo is the only Beatle who (as a solo artist) isn't in this elite circle.
- 5 Which Beatle died in 2001?
- 6 What was the surname of *The Beatles*' manager?
- 7 What is the surname of the bass player of *The Beatles*?
- 8 In which studios did the band record their first single?
- 9 Who was the band's drummer?
- 10 How many years did the band perform as *The Beatles*?
- 11 What was their first US single called?
- 12 Where was John Lennon living when he died?

1	2	3	4	5	6

7	8	9	10	11	12