



**MUSIC
LESSON**



History of Rap





What Is Rap?

Rapping essentially involves the speaking or chanting of rhyming lyrics, often set to a beat.

The rhyming created by rappers is considered by many to be one of the most sophisticated styles of poetry.



Where Did Rap Come From?

More than a century before rap exploded onto the American music scene, West African musicians were telling stories rhythmically, with just the beat of a drum for accompaniment. Meanwhile, folk artists from the Caribbean Islands were also telling stories in rhyme. These singing poets from Africa and the Caribbean lay the foundation for modern-day American rap music.



Photo courtesy of Dave Pape (@flickr.com) - granted under creative commons licence - attribution



LET'S LEARN TO RAP!

- **Watch the opening theme tune to Fresh Prince of Bel Air.**
- **If you have never seen this TV programme – its great so I highly recommend!**
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hBe0VCso0qs>

READ THE LYRICS BELOW

Go down to Ancient Egypt and you will see
Plenty of Pharaohs who were hard to please
Sitting up high on their throne in Cairo
Watching the famous long River Nile flow.

You'll meet gods like Anubis who is God of the
Dead,
But I can tell you that you'd rather meet Ra instead.
He is God of the Sun who watches over us all
And his statue is raised up high and tall.

Pyramids were built as tombs for the dead
Including Tutankhamum, yeah that's what I said!
He was the boy king who died at 18
Of a broken leg – how could that have been?

Mummification took 40 long days,
All of your organs pulled out in many ways.
Five canopic jars is where they then lay
Except for the heart – inside the body it would stay.

Queen Cleopatra lost her man and her crown.
She couldn't live without them so a snake struck her
down.
We've talked about Egypt and this and that.
Now that's the end of our Egyptian rap!



ACTIVITY

Choose from the activities below:

Activity 1

Learn the Fresh Prince of Bel Air rap and try to rap along to the video.

Activity 2

Try rapping the Egyptian lyrics in the style of the Fresh Prince of Bel Air theme tune.

Activity 3

Make up your own Egyptian rap song.

