

The Day The Music Died

Activity One - **Watch the video and answer the questions as you watch it.**

You Tube - the story behind American Pie

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rRwGxswYcJk

1. **Which three explanations are given for Don Mc Lean writing this song ?**
2. **How many different references to music and bands did you notice ?**
3. **Which symbols or cultural references did you notice ?**
4. **What was the name of Buddy Holly's band ?**
5. **Who is Miss American Pie ?**
6. **Who is Jack ?**
7. **Where did Holly's plane crash ?**
8. **Who is the girl who sang the blues ?**
9. **Who were the three men McClean admired the most (two possibilities).**
10. **Who was supposed to be in Buddy's plane ?**
11. **Which song was written about McClean ?**
12. **Why did he use symbols ?**
13. **Are you familiar with this song ?**
14. **Do you like the song ?**

Activity Two – Read and identify the different past tenses used in the song.

Activity Three – Take turns reading the lyrics paying attention to your intonation and pronunciation and explaining which past tenses are used.

A long, long time ago...
I can still remember
How that music used to make me smile.
And I knew if I had my chance
That I could make those people dance
And, maybe, they'd be happy for a while.

But february made me shiver
With every paper I'd deliver.
Bad news on the doorstep;
I couldn't take one more step.

I can't remember if I cried
When I read about his widowed bride,
But something touched me deep inside
The day the music died.

So bye-bye, miss american pie.
Drove my chevy to the levee,
But the levee was dry.
And them good old boys were drinkin' whiskey and rye
Singin', "this'll be the day that I die.
"this'll be the day that I die."

Did you write the book of love,
And do you have faith in God above,
If the Bible tells you so?
Do you believe in rock 'n roll,
Can music save your mortal soul,
And can you teach me how to dance real slow?

Well, I know that you're in love with him
`cause I saw you dancin' in the gym.
You both kicked off your shoes.
Man, I dig those rhythm and blues.

I was a lonely teenage broncin' buck
With a pink carnation and a pickup truck,
But I knew I was out of luck
The day the music died.

I started singin',
"bye-bye, miss american pie."
Drove my chevy to the levee,
But the levee was dry.
Them good old boys were drinkin' whiskey and rye
And singin', "this'll be the day that I die.
"this'll be the day that I die."

Now for ten years we've been on our own
And moss grows fat on a rollin' stone,
But that's not how it used to be.

When the jester sang for the king and queen,
In a coat he borrowed from james dean
And a voice that came from you and me,

Oh, and while the king was looking down,
The jester stole his thorny crown.
The courtroom was adjourned;
No verdict was returned.
And while lennon read a book of marx,
The quartet practiced in the park,
And we sang dirges in the dark
The day the music died.

We were singing,
"bye-bye, miss american pie."
Drove my chevy to the levee,
But the levee was dry.
Them good old boys were drinkin' whiskey and rye
And singin', "this'll be the day that I die.
"this'll be the day that I die."

Helter skelter in a summer swelter.
The birds flew off with a fallout shelter,
Eight miles high and falling fast.
It landed foul on the grass.
The players tried for a forward pass,
With the jester on the sidelines in a cast.

Now the half-time air was sweet perfume
While the sergeants played a marching tune.
We all got up to dance,
Oh, but we never got the chance!
`cause the players tried to take the field;
The marching band refused to yield.
Do you recall what was revealed
The day the music died?

We started singing,
"bye-bye, miss american pie."
Drove my chevy to the levee,
But the levee was dry.
Them good old boys were drinkin' whiskey and rye
And singin', "this'll be the day that I die.
"this'll be the day that I die."

Oh, and there we were all in one place,
A generation lost in space
With no time left to start again.
So come on: jack be nimble, jack be quick!
Jack flash sat on a candlestick
Cause fire is the devil's only friend.

Oh, and as I watched him on the stage
My hands were clenched in fists of rage.
No angel born in hell
Could break that satan's spell.
And as the flames climbed high into the night
To light the sacrificial rite,
I saw satan laughing with delight
The day the music died

He was singing,
"bye-bye, miss american pie."
Drove my chevy to the levee,
But the levee was dry.
Them good old boys were drinkin' whiskey and rye
And singin', "this'll be the day that I die.
"this'll be the day that I die."

I met a girl who sang the blues
And I asked her for some happy news,
But she just smiled and turned away.
I went down to the sacred store
Where I'd heard the music years before,
But the man there said the music wouldn't play.

And in the streets: the children screamed,
The lovers cried, and the poets dreamed.
But not a word was spoken;
The church bells all were broken.
And the three men I admire most:
The father, son, and the holy ghost,
They caught the last train for the coast
The day the music died.

And they were singing,
"bye-bye, miss american pie."
Drove my chevy to the levee,
But the levee was dry.
And them good old boys were drinkin' whiskey and rye
Singin', "this'll be the day that I die.
"this'll be the day that I die."

They were singing,
"bye-bye, miss american pie."
Drove my chevy to the levee,
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Them good old boys were drinkin' whiskey and rye
Singin', "this'll be the day that I die."

Activity Four – Article – Read the article and put all the verbs into the correct past tenses.

1959: Buddy Holly killed in air crash

Three young rock 'n' roll stars 1 **KILLED** in a plane crash in the United States. Buddy Holly, 22, Jiles P Richardson - known as the Big Bopper - 28, and Ritchie Valens, 17, 2 **DIE** in a crash shortly after take-off from Clear Lake, Iowa at 0100 local time.

The pilot of the single-engined Beechcraft Bonanza plane also 3 **KILLED**. Early reports from the scene suggest the aircraft **SPIN** out of control during a light snowstorm.

Only the pilot's body 4 **FIND** inside the wreckage as the performers were thrown clear on impact. Holly 5 **HIRE** the plane after heating problems developed on his tourbus.

All three 6 **TRAVEL** to Moorhead, Minnesota, the next venue in their Winter Dance Party Tour

Holly 7 **SET UP** the gruelling schedule of concerts - covering 24 cities in three weeks - to make money after the break-up of his band, The Crickets, last year.

Born Charles Hardin Holley – 8 **CHANGE** to Holly after a misspelling on a contract ,he 9 **HAVE** several hit records, including a number one, in the US and UK with That'll be the Day in 1957.

A singer and guitarist, he 10 **INSPIRE** by Elvis Presley after seeing him at an early concert in his home town of Lubbock, Texas. With Presley serving in the Army, some critics 11 **EXPECT** Holly to take over his crown. Richard Valenzuela was the first Mexican American to break into mainstream music, after 12 **DISCOVER** by record producer Bob Keane, who changed his name to Ritchie Valens.

He 13 **MAKE** three albums and achieved a number two chart position in the US with his composition Donna - about his girlfriend - in 1958. His rock 'n' roll re-working of the traditional Mexican song La Bamba - on the B-side of Donna 14 **RECEIVE** also acclaim.

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Activity Five – Video – (Stop at 5 minutes.)http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I_zrIf6oBFg&feature=related

Febuary 3,1959-The fatal coin toss(Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, and The Big Bopper)

Watch the video and answer the questions.

1. What is the surf ballroom ?
2. Where is it ?
3. What happened in the green room ?
4. When was Buddy hollys last performance ?
5. What is the surf ballroom know for ?
6. What is a coin flip ?
7. Who is interviewed about the coin flip ?
8. What does he talk about ? (He is hard to understand so just try to understand the general ideas.)
9. What did he say about the heating ?
10. How cold was it in the day ?
11. Where were they flying to ?
12. What coin did they toss ?
13. Why did they nearly get the identity of the people in the plane wrong ?
14. Who was afraid of flying ?

Activity Six – Tell the story of Buddy Holly's death in your own words. (Work with a partner) as if you were reporting of the crash the next day.

